

Wednesday July 15 1998

Algeria DZ 0.90	Greenland GR 0.50	Qatar QA 1.00
Andorra AD 0.60	Hong Kong HK 0.95	Pakistan PK 0.50
Angola AO 0.60	Hungary HU 0.50	Pakistan PS 0.50
Argentina AR 0.60	Ireland IE 0.50	Peru PE 0.50
Australia AU 0.60	Italy IT 0.50	Poland PL 0.50
Austria AT 0.60	Japan JP 0.50	Portugal PT 0.50
Belgium BE 0.60	Korea KR 0.50	Romania RO 0.50
Bolivia BO 0.60	Latvia LV 0.50	Russia RU 0.50
Brazil BR 0.60	Lithuania LT 0.50	Saudi Arabia SA 0.50
Canada CA 0.60	Malaysia MY 0.50	Senegal SN 0.50
Chad CD 0.60	Malta MT 0.50	Sierra Leone SL 0.50
Czech Republic CZ 0.50	Mexico MX 0.50	Slovakia SK 0.50
Denmark DK 0.50	Morocco MA 0.50	Slovenia SI 0.50
Egypt EG 0.50	Netherlands NL 0.50	Spain ES 0.50
Finland FI 0.50	Norway NO 0.50	Sweden SE 0.50
France FR 0.50	Poland PL 0.50	Switzerland CH 0.50
Germany DE 0.50	Portugal PT 0.50	Taiwan TW 0.50
Greece GR 0.50	Romania RO 0.50	Tanzania TZ 0.50
Guatemala GT 0.50	Russia RU 0.50	Togo TO 0.50
Haiti HT 0.50	Saudi Arabia SA 0.50	Tunisia TN 0.50
Honduras HN 0.50	Senegal SN 0.50	Turkey TR 0.50
Hungary HU 0.50	Sierra Leone SL 0.50	USA US 0.50
Iceland IS 0.50	Slovakia SK 0.50	
Ireland IE 0.50	Slovenia SI 0.50	
Israel IL 0.50	Spain ES 0.50	
Italy IT 0.50	Sweden SE 0.50	
Japan JP 0.50	Switzerland CH 0.50	
Korea KR 0.50	Taiwan TW 0.50	
Latvia LV 0.50	Tanzania TZ 0.50	
Lithuania LT 0.50	Togo TO 0.50	
Malaysia MY 0.50	Tunisia TN 0.50	
Malta MT 0.50	Turkey TR 0.50	
Mexico MX 0.50	USA US 0.50	
Morocco MA 0.50		
Netherlands NL 0.50		
Norway NO 0.50		
Norway NK 0.50		

The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

G2 cover story

Can France learn to love foreigners?

G2 with European weather

Register your vote

The world's most stylish people

Style G2 pages 8-9

Biotechnology

Pride comes before a fall

Society, G2 pages 12-13

He's just spent £56bn and he's thinking of the next election



Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, outside the Treasury yesterday. His speech, in which he announced that health and education would share a cumulative £40 billion, delighted Labour MPs and stunned Conservatives. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

Massive boost for health, education

Michael White, Larry Elliott and Mark Atkinson

THE Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday mapped out Labour's strategy for winning a second full term in power when he unveiled a £56 billion increase in public expenditure on voter-friendly services like health and education over the next three years. Mr Brown delighted Labour MPs and stunned the Conser-

vative benches as he trumped heavily-traded predictions of a financial bonanza for schools, further education and hospitals with the announcement that health and education will share a cumulative £40 billion. Although heavily dependent upon the economy avoiding a grinding recession over the next two years — and on continued public sector pay restraint — the bigger-than-expected boost to schools and hospitals will enable the Government to meet its 1997

manifesto commitments to Middle England by the time of the next election, 2001-2. It was buttressed by £2.5 billion of extra cash aimed at a guaranteed minimum income for poor pensioners. They will also get help with winter fuel bills and transport costs; free eye tests for OAPs will also be restored. In a further gesture to Labour's traditionalists, there will also be more money for run-down estates, the arts and overseas aid. But Mr Brown gave parallel assurances to the City — immediately contested by the Tories — that Labour is keeping a tight enough grip on tax-and-spend to avoid further damaging interest rate rises. In headline terms it means that Frank Dobson's Department of Health will get a cumulative £21 billion extra by

the year 2001-2002 — an average 4.7 per cent real growth over three years, 3.7 per cent over the current Parliament compared with 3 per cent in 1992-97. Tories and Liberal Democrats protested that Mr Brown's "double accounting" will really be an extra £3.6 billion a year by 2001-2, just enough to allow the NHS to "stand still". David Blunkett's education and employment budget will rise by £19 billion as a result of the Treasury's year-long Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Though twice the real-terms increase in the last Parliament — 3 per cent against 1.4 — it is back-ended, with most money, an extra £3.3 billion, coming in election year. That gives Mr Blunkett an

other tough year in 1999 and Mr Brown also announced another potential headache: a controversial pilot scheme which could see the replacement of child benefit for 16 to 18-year-olds with a means-tested grant tied to staying on at school. In a sweeping overhaul which restructures Whitehall's current and capital spending, the CSR will see Whitehall departments get their budgets set for three years in return for tightly-monitored progress on efficiency and the delivery of "front-line services" in NHS wards and school classrooms. "That is what we mean by education, education, education. Honouring our commitment to the British people," Mr Brown told the Commons in an echo of Tony Blair's pre-

election pledges, some of which have suffered from two years of deliberately tight public spending controls. "This government has made the choices necessary to deliver stable and sustainable public finances. We have been steadfast in our priorities — the nation's priorities," said Mr Brown. Debt repayment alone is saving the Government £5 billion a year in interest charges and further sales of public assets will raise £11 billion. Transport, law and order, and local government — including housing — are among the winners. Social security spending will also continue to rise, albeit at a slower rate than under the Tories, 2.1 per cent against 3.8 per cent. Loser departments include

the legal aid budget, defence, agriculture, the Foreign Office, the Department of Trade and Industry (except its research budget) and Mr Brown's own department. The Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, welcomed extra money for public services, but warned: "The Chancellor has confirmed today why Labour has already raised taxes 17 times, why families are already £1,000-a-year worse off — and it is because Labour cannot control public spending." The Treasury is sticking by its forecast of 2 per cent growth this year. Ministers are confident they can avoid letting the economic downturn become a recession. They insist they have been hyper-cautious, leaving projected surpluses on current spending of between £7 and £12 billion in each year in case of a downturn. If unemployment rises, they will need it. Mr Brown is also gambling against a damaging public sector pay avalanche which would eat up extra cash. Polly Toynbee and Jonathan Freedland, page 8; Leader comment, page 9; City Notebook, page 11

Spending Review highlights

Health spending to increase by a total £21 billion over three years. Next year it will rise by 5.7 per cent in real, inflation-adjusted, terms and by 4.5 per cent in 2000. Education to receive an extra £19 billion over the next

three years, £3 billion next year, £6 billion in 2000 and £10 billion in 2001, a real-terms average increase of 2.1 per cent a year. Transport boosted by £1.7 billion over the next three years to modernise the road

and rail network. Science to get an extra £1.1 billion, including £400 million from the Wellcome Foundation, to provide universities with research and teaching. Regeneration £2.4 billion for urban regeneration and housing, split between £2.5 billion on

renewing housing stock and £200 million on a New Deal for communities. Museums, the arts and sport get £290 million extra over three years, a real increase of 5.5 per cent. World Service Foreign Office support to rise by £44 million between now and

the end of the parliament. Overseas aid to increase from the low of 0.25 per cent of national income to 0.3 per cent. Pensioners by test charges to be abolished and more help with transport costs. Debt interest payments to be £5 billion a year lower by the end of this parliament.

Efficiency targets: government departments to have targets from 3 to 10 per cent. Pay Public sector pay review bodies forced to take account of departmental spending limits and the Government's inflation and efficiency targets.

In with the old, as the new is spun aside

Commentary

Hugo Young

THERE is oldness in New Labour after all. So obsessed have they become with denying this, and so fascinated are we in chronicling their high-spun empty novelty, that any possible consistency with their past gets written out of the script. Yet Gordon Brown's statement yesterday defined a government which is in one respect crucially

linked to Labour history. Though coming after two years spent avowedly mimicking the Tories, it was a statement no Conservative could have made. It sprang from a joyful belief in public spending. You could see as much in every breathless, driven word of Mr Brown's pell-mell speech. The party that fought the election behind zero spending promises, and silenced every spokesman who seemed likely to break ranks, presents itself as a big spender only after 14 months in power: a bizarre reversal of political normality. But there was nothing apologetic about it. Whereas even a liberal Tory like Kenneth Clarke never avoided a sense of shame about every tax-pound he spent, Mr Brown revelled in

what it would, under new management, accomplish. He believed with obvious passion in every word he said about the huge improvements in the public realm he was setting forth: the "infrastructure of opportunity" the state was building, the giant escalators on education and health spending, compared with what the Tories did, which he sternly refused to mention in April 1997. The famous three-year plan isn't as new as the Chancellor made out. The memoirs of Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson are rich in accounts of their own three-year time frames to bring logic to public spending, though they never got round the need for annual reviews. The Brown statement hasn't been without its own heavy pre-spinning, in which unique long-termism

was proposed as one of its defining features. But in truth, the CSR — comprehensive spending review — is better seen as one effort in the unending line of efforts to impose value-for-money disciplines on the public purse. It demands departmental "contracts" with the Treasury, and emphasises "co-ordinated approaches", not to mention incessant reviews of reviews of reviews. What is being tested, at bottom, is whether a government that believes in public spending can get better value for money than one that did not. The lurch on that will remain out for several years. But, in the run-up, ministers differed in their approach to setting priorities. Before the PX committee, which heard the initial demands, the star

performer was Clare Short, the only minister, I was told, who came with a clear plan for reordering her departmental budget. Margaret Beckett and Jack Straw, apparently, also got the idea, but many others, when asked what they expected their budgets to look like in three years' time, replied with bleary bewilderment. The experience also ended by not being notably collective. The Brown approach removed the Cabinet from the equation other than as individual supplicants in bilateral meetings. All power, at the finish, resided with him and the Prime Minister. Whereas even the Thatcher cabinets engaged in some memorable set-piece rows over public spending, the Blair-Brown duet here de-

cided everything — evidence of the two men's strongly collaborative dimension, as well as Mr Blair's own capacity to pay attention sometimes to the smallest details. The CSR, however, is not a piece of magic. It disposes of some *conards*, and displaces the froth of the last two weeks. We're faced at last with an agenda, not a message. This is what these ministers went into government to do, and the promises of high seriousness will please Labour MPs and unite the party. Yet it's the moment, also, of truth: when a government discovers that, however vast its majority, its economic performance has almost nothing to do with its political strength. Some of the threats to the turn to page 3, column 1

Inside

Britain

Fifteen Chinese immigrants to Britain have been taken hostage by kidnappers over the last 18 months.

4

World News

Two British soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in the Balkans. The British army is also facing a shortage of troops in the Balkans.

7

Analysis

John Caryl on how the British need to overcome their linguistic deficiencies to compete properly in a global economy.

11

Finance

Proposals to privatise the Tote appear to have been shelved because of fears for the future of Britain's horse racing industry.

12

Obituaries 10

Comment 9

Crossword 16

Quick Crossword 16

Weather, TV and Radio 16

29

9 770261 307330

The new Lexmark high speed colour printer. So fast, it may change more than you'd expect.

For more information, simply call 08000 380088 during working hours. Or visit our web site at www.lexmark.co.uk/opracolour anytime.

LEXMARK

Lexmark Printers. So good, you'll want to stay together forever.



Stepfather John Dillon is unable to control his grief as he carries the coffin of one of the three boys, Jason, Mark and Richard, above right

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL FAITH



The following poem Little Lips by Amanda Ramsey and Amanda McAlonan, teenage neighbours of the dead boys, was read at their funeral.

I woke up this morning to hear the horror on the news
That three young lives were taken which leaves me sad
and confused.
Why would someone do this is the question on our
lips.
Who would have so much evil at their fingertips?
And take the lives of Richard, Mark and Jason in
such a terrible way.
We will never forget them, not even for a day.

Three jolly fellows who had so much to learn and enjoy
Have been snatched away from us today.
And we all have a feeling of loss that will never go
away.
My heart goes out to their family, I know it seems so
unfair.
Just remember we will all meet again when we go up
there — life will be so much easier and there will be
no violence.

Father, we pray in memory of these precious little
boys.
There will be no more evil plays.
Oh Lord, please let the evil people be brought to justice
some day.
And help everyone through this terrible time
That brings sadness to every home and every room.

Richard, Mark and Jason, in our memories you will
stay.
I can still feel the cold, wet lips of when I kissed you and
then you ran away.
So I guess the next few lines are going to have to be
goodbye.
I miss you so much, your little lips long to touch.
Kisses and hugs: Rest In Peace.

Suffer the little children . . .

Men cried at the sight of the three coffins. The mother held on to her surviving son. John Mullin at the funeral of the Quinn boys



Chrissie Quinn, the boys' mother, rests her head on the shoulder of her surviving son, Lee

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN GILES

HERE was no chance to kiss them goodbye, even in death. The three white coffins came back to Irene Quinn's house already sealed, the bodies of her young grandsons too badly disfigured after the petrol-bomb attack to provide even such scant consolation.

So their mother, Chrissie Quinn, picked out her favourite photographs of Richard, aged 11, Mark, 10, and eight-year-old Jason. She taped them to the coffin lids alongside the brass nameplates and sat with her boys in her mother's back bedroom until it was time for their funeral.

Mourners began arriving at Irene Quinn's hovel in

Rasharkin, Co Antrim, just before 9am. There were more men than women at first, and they looked no-nonsense types. They murmured, hands cupped round cigarettes glowing in the gloom, and nodded curt greetings before silence descended. Then their tears began to fall, unashamedly.

Somehow the intractability of the coffin was unexpected, a

shock. Jason came first, then Mark, and, finally, Richard. Each had his own floral tribute, spelling out their family nicknames, Ace, Marky and Tavish respectively.

John Dillon, 28, the boys' stepfather, was the final pallbearer. His tattooed hand

carried Tavish's coffin as his

grief poured forth.

Mr Dillon, struggling even

to walk, was to carry each of

his stepsons before they were

buried. His weeping never

ceased.

Ms Quinn, 29, who split up

from Mr Dillon last year, walked

with her surviving son, Lee, aged 12. She wept

quietly, clinging to him for

support, looking like the

loneliest woman in the world.

She is Catholic, and, in the

hostile climate springing up

around the Orangemen's stand-

off 70 miles away at Drumcree,

that was enough. She was seen

as a legitimate target for sectarian

petrol-bombers. Her sons,

though, were brought up as

Protestants.

Ms Quinn quickly decided that their funeral was to be held in the Catholic church. Her uncle, Robert Patton, 53, himself a former Orangeman, explained: "She can't bring herself to hold it in a Protestant church after what the Protestants have done."

So she went one last time to

Ballymoney, five miles up the

road, as Father Peter Forde

presided over funeral mass at

the 121-year-old Church of Our

Lady and St Patrick. She

vowed never again to return

to the town where her sons

perished early on Sunday.

As more than 2,000 Protestants

and Catholics gathered outside, up to 1,000 more

packed the pews. Among them

were deputy first minis-

ter Seamus Mallon and Colin

Parry, whose son, Tim, 12,

died in the IRA's bombing of

Warrington in 1993.

There was no sign of the

local MP, Ian Paisley, leader

of the Democratic Unionist

Party. His religious principles

mean that he cannot

bring himself to put foot in-

side a Catholic church.

Mr Paisley had been to

Drumcree late the previous

night. He believes that the

murders were neither sectarian

nor linked to the stand-

off, a position which the RUC

repudiates.

He told the dwindling band

of protesters at Drumcree

that opponents of the Orange-

men were dancing on the

graves of the three children.

using them to rally opinion against the Orange Order.

Patrick Walsh, the Bishop

of Down and Connor, told the

mourners yesterday: "For all

too long, the airwaves, the

printed page, have been sat-

urated with noises — strident,

harsh, discordant noises, car-

rying words of hatred, of in-

imicement, of recrimination,

words not found in the vocabu-

lary of Christianity.

"The weapons of hate-filled

words 'inevitably' fuel

weapons of murderous de-

struction — indeed how true

are the words of the psalm:

'Their teeth are slings and ar-

rows; their tongues shar-

pened swords'."

Bishop Walsh called for

silent re-appraisal through-

out Northern Ireland

following the horrific mur-

ders. He hoped that strident

voices would no longer drown

out the quiet voice of God.

There was a touching tribute

from teenage neighbours

Amanda Ramsey and Amanda

McAlonan. It was a poem called

Little Lips, and they had left it

pinched outside the family's

burn-out home on the Char-

nary estate. Its delivery was in-

tensely moving.

As the boys were laid to

rest in the one plot at St

Mary's, Rasharkin, Father

Forde said that the family

wanted everyone to come

back for refreshments. Even

in terrible times, decent

people know how to treat

their neighbours.

Lords deal on fees averts crisis

Blunkett welcomes 11th-hour compromise to end stalemate

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

AN 11th-hour compromise over tuition fees in Scotland was cobbled together between Opposition peers and the Government last night, averting a constitutional crisis as the Lords attempted to thwart the Commons.

Liberal Democrats and Tories dropped their opposition to the Government's plans to impose fees for the fourth year of a Scottish degree course on all but Scottish students.

They were responding to the Government's commitment to an independent commission to review the fees' impact, to be set up within six months of the bill becoming law and to report by April 2000.

The Education and Employment Secretary David Blun-

kett welcomed the end to the stalemate. "I am glad common sense has prevailed," he said. "I put my own neck on the block promising the commission. I will consult the Opposition on its membership and I will make sure it is seen to be fair. I will accept its findings with equanimity."

Both sides claimed victory. Lord Mackay of Ardrara, who insisted the Government would eventually be forced to backtrack: "The issue now goes to an independent commission where all the bodies from the education world will give evidence against the Government's proposals," he predicted. "I am confident the commission will have to conclude that this is a daft anomaly."

Lady Blackstone, the higher education minister, welcomed the end of "the everlasting ping pong" as the bill finally headed for the statute book after being rejected

three times by peers. Adding detail to the compromise first proposed on Monday in the Commons, she promised "a cool and rational review and a cool and rational response from the Government."

A Lib-Dem spokeswoman said: "We had to break the logjam. At least this means that students can start this autumn knowing that there will be a review which could mean they will not have to pay their fourth year fees."

With an apparently unbreakable constitutional deadlock, the former prime minister Lord Callaghan appealed for moderation. Last week peers voted by the highest majority against a government since 1913 to entitle all students at Scottish universities to receive tuition fees for the full four years.

But in the Commons on Monday night, the Government again rejected the move as a benefit for children of rich English parents which would cost £27 million because tuition fees for the fourth year of all UK university courses would then have

to be met by the Government. Mr Blunkett said it was a constitutional issue, which the elected Commons must win over the unelected peers.

Until late yesterday the stand-off was expected to continue, with Mr Blunkett reportedly ready to send the bill straight back to the Lords if they stuck by their opposition to the Scottish anomaly.

But the threat of constitutional crisis and Mr Blunkett's warning to the university vice-chancellors who sit in the Lords that the whole university funding structure would be thrown into chaos led to conciliatory moves.

The Liberal Democrat peer Lord Thomson of Monifieth tabled an amendment which formally put the review promised by Mr Blunkett in Monday's debate into the legislation. Then the Government tabled its own amendment, signalling the end of the impasse which some Tory peers thought was a suitable issue on which to fight plans to abolish hereditary peers' voting rights, due in the next parliamentary session.

The perils of not singing it softly

Review

Garth Cartwright

Billie Myers
Hanover Grand, London

"DO YOU sing as well as you dance?" sounds like a pick-up line, especially when a stranger poses the question to you on a crowded dance floor. Insurance clerk Billie Myers thought as much until a friend pointed out that the name on the card the stranger had passed to her was Pete Q. Harris, a prominent pop producer. The club was in Tottenham Court Road, only a stone's throw from the venue where

Myers made her British debut last night.

Not that her story is simple. Myers, at 27, is the latest Brit to be awarded Big In America status while remaining pretty unknown here.

The Harris connection never worked out — he wanted a dance diva, she possessed the muse of a singer-songwriter. Stung by a desire to prove herself, she hooked a publishing contract with EMI but was turned down by British record companies, one executive declaring: "We don't take chances with maybes."

Heading across the Atlantic, Myers was taken in by Desmond Child, multi-platinum song doctor to the stars, who saw in her a potential Alanis Morissette. So did Universal, the world's largest record com-

pany, and Myers was soon near the top of the US charts. Of Jamaican and English heritage, she boasts a dry humour and a debt to Joan Armatrading, neither of which surface on her overly slick debut album, *Growing Pains*.

Last night Myers delivered a set of full-on stadium rock. The power pop of *Kiss the Rain* — the song that established her — was well received but Myers's real strength lies in the sensual, ironic, eye she brings to human relationships.

Having grown up a foster child, she brings a real sense of longing and want to her songs. The problem is that she has been assimilated instantly into the rock machine while given little time to develop her natural strengths.

On stage she loves the spotlight but does not seem truly comfortable with the excesses all around her.

When she sang, in *First Time*, about noticing during some unsatisfactory love-making that the ceiling needed painting, the extreme volume levels and posturing straight out of the MTV graveyard reduced the song to farce. A Lenny Kravitz cover hammered every cliché home.

Billie Myers is being shaped for pop stardom while her nature suggests more contemplative music. If she had managed to relax on stage, strip the songs back to their roots, she could have initiated London into her intimate secrets. Sing it softly, Billie.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Who says you can't predict the future?

14.30%

gross rate after two years
(7.15% gross rate p.a.)

The Millennium Bond

There's no such thing as an uncertain future with a NatWest Millennium Bond. That's because our attractive interest rates are fixed from the start, so your money is guaranteed to keep on growing.

You can choose to receive your interest monthly or annually. Alternatively, you can let your savings accumulate over the

full two year term of the bond. Whether you want to save from £2,000 to £250,000, the NatWest Millennium Bond is for you.

If you'd like more information, call us now or pop into your local NatWest branch.

Call 0800 200 400

MON TO FRI 8.00am TO 8.00pm SAT 9.00am TO 6.00pm

NatWest

More than just a bank

Millennium Bond pays 7.15% gross rate p.a. 14.30% gross rate after two years. The interest rate quoted will apply only if no withdrawals are made within the term of the bond, where appropriate, lower rates may be offered. 200% will be deducted at source from the interest paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise, the interest will be paid gross. The gross rate is the rate before deducting income tax. All rates are subject to variation but one fixed from when you take out the bond. Rates correct at the time of going to press. We may require and record your phone call with us in order to maintain and improve our services. National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered Office: 41 Leadenhall, London EC3A 3BP. Registered Number: 220277. England. Ref No: 17317

Crossing the Atlantic



Making a splash... Atlantic swimmer Ben Lecomte during a break in training. 'People think I'm crazy, but I'm doing it for a good cause'

PHOTOGRAPH BY HALAM

His brothers are stars at marathons and water-skiing. He aims to swim the ocean

The swimmer

John Dunne
Sports Correspondent

FOLLOWING a long line of eccentric French adventurers, Ben Marie Jean-Paul Lecomte will today pull on a wetsuit and flippers at Cape Cod, Massachusetts, slip into the chilly waters and set off on a 3,956-mile quest to become the first person to swim the Atlantic.

Mr Lecomte, who intends to swim six hours each day in two-hour bursts, is due to arrive in Brest, France, in late September, and hopes to dry himself off and hand a cheque for several thousand pounds to the Association for International Cancer Research, based in St Andrew's, Fife.

"People think I'm crazy," he said. "But I'm doing it for a good cause." He decided to take on the Atlantic as a tribute to his father, who died of

colon cancer seven years ago, aged 49. The AICR is the only cancer charity which sponsors research internationally.

"I've been doing different types of sports all my life from an early age," said Mr Lecomte, whose brothers are a marathon runner and a champion water skier. "I've had the idea of crossing the Atlantic for about eight years. I like the adventure of it."

He will be followed by a small boat with a raft which will be detached and pushed over to him when he wants to sleep under a waterproof plastic sheet. His main problems will not be the actual swimming but the psychological pressure of loneliness, and the danger of sharks.

Instead of swimming inside a metal cage, he will be protected by a device which emits an electronic signal that deters predators. The last man to paddle across the Atlantic, Guy Delage, had to repel a shark by kicking it on the nose. "No, I'm not afraid

of them," Mr Lecomte said. "In a cage I could be crushed against it if a big wave comes along."

Boredom and mental exhaustion will be eased by Mr Lecomte's photographic memory. "You have to focus on the goal, on the whole event," he said. "I have vivid pictures in my mind of the good times, of my family and friends."

In all the preparations Mr Lecomte, who moved to Austin, Texas, from France five years ago, has been advised by Professor Eddie Coyle, the director of the human performance laboratory at the University of Texas. "What he's attempting is physiologically possible," he said.

His feat is likely to be dismissed by those who keep the records of long distance swimming, because of the snorkel, wet-suits and aqua-dynamic fin he will be wearing to assist him. Mr Lecomte said: "I am not the best swimmer. But it's something I have to do."

Just for the record...

□ The first man to do it on foot was Frenchman Remy Bricka, aged 39, who skied on two 150t polyester floats. He arrived in Trinidad suffering delirium after leaving the Canary Islands 64 days earlier on April 1, 1988.

□ The first crossing on a raft was by France's Guy Delage in February 1995. He took 55 days. Delage was also the first to cross the ocean in a micro-light aircraft, in 1991.

□ Another Frenchman, marina biologist Alain Bombardier, in 1962 was the first to cross the Atlantic in a rubber dinghy. He later became the French environment minister.

□ Seventy-six people have rowed the Atlantic, 11 of them in one French boat.

The first solo-rower was a Briton, John Fairfax in January 1996.

□ Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic solo in the Spirit of St Louis for the first time in 1927, collecting a \$25,000 prize for landing in Paris.

□ Elisabeth Hoff will try to become the first British woman to row the Atlantic on new year's day 2000.

□ The Blue Riband for the fastest sea crossing was won by the Queen Mary in

1936, but is held historically by the liner United States, which completed her maiden voyage in July 1952 in three days 10 hours 40 minutes, still the fastest conventional passenger ship record.

Richard Branson's powerboat, Virgin Atlantic Challenger II, made the trip in three days, eight hours and 31 minutes in 1987, but the official record is now held by Italy, whose Desiderio in 1992 crossed the Atlantic non-stop in two days 10 hours and 34 minutes.

US troops will quit, allies warned

John Hooper in Rome

THE American government has secretly threatened to pull its troops out of Europe in an attempt to curb the reach of a proposed permanent war crimes tribunal.

The threat highlights the rift opening between Washington and some of its staunchest allies over the creation of the court.

Washington's representative has already told the Rome conference which plans to set up the new body that the US will "actively oppose" it if it is given powers that governments like Britain and Germany agree it should have.

Last night, these and other serious divisions were casting a shadow over the prospects for a deal before the conference ends on Friday. One delegate called the atmosphere "poisoned".

Human rights activists see the creation of an International Criminal Court (ICC) as potentially a giant step forward for global human rights. The tribunal would be empowered to judge accusations of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, such as torture, enslavement and the persecution of minorities. Until now, only four ad hoc courts have been set up to hear such cases — at Nuremberg and Tokyo after the second world war and, more recently, at Arusha and The Hague to judge war crimes in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

The US fears the court could be used to bring politically motivated prosecutions against its troops abroad. It has mounted a vigorous campaign to try to scotch provisions that would allow the trial of US citizens, even if Washington failed to ratify the treaty creating it.

The rawness of America's strong-arm tactics is revealed in a fax sent to the German defence ministry in Bonn last Thursday, apparently in preparation for a telephone discussion between the US defence secretary, William Cohen, and his counterpart in Bonn, Volker Rühe.

The fax says: "Even under the most optimistic scenario it will be a long time before the US is a party to the ICC statute. Our troops are deployed worldwide in support of international peace and security — including a substantial and active presence in Europe — and would become a magnet for frivolous and politically-motivated accusations."

"The prospect of an ICC pretending to have jurisdiction over our personnel even though we are not a party is completely unacceptable."

"Should the universal jurisdiction proposal be adopted by the Rome conference, we would have to consider the implications for our overseas presence, including our commitment to forces in Europe."

A US spokesman said last night: "The US does not comment on bilateral negotiations in the context of a multilateral discussion. We view these private negotiations as a normal and essential part of any such discussion."

Germany was responsible for the most far-reaching of three proposals set before the conference, each of which would allow prosecutions without agreement from the accused's government. Bonn's plan was ruled out by the conference chairman, Philippe Kirsch of Canada, on the day after the Pentagon's fax was sent.

A more restrictive suggestion, tabled by Britain, failed to attract widespread support. But a third formula, devised by South Korea, won the backing of a clear majority of delegates.

According to a source close to the conference, similar tactics have been used by the Pentagon on Seoul. Mr Cohen met the South Korean defence minister, Chun Yong-taek, in Washington last week.

On Monday, Seoul's representative tried to convince the Rome conference that his government's proposal did not constitute "universal jurisdiction" — the phrase which, perhaps significantly, was complained of in the Pentagon's fax. But his delegation has not scrapped its formula, which now looks set to be adopted by the conference.

Giant venture for 29 lb aircraft

The model plane

Martin Kettle in Washington

OVER the years, the Atlantic Ocean has been crossed by everything from Viking longships to Concorde, and by adventurers from Christopher Columbus to Richard Branson. Indeed, it is hard to imagine there are any untried routes or methods of crossing left.

But in the next few weeks a group of engineers and meteorologists from Washington state in the north-western United States intend to be the first to pilot a small model plane across the Atlantic, roughly retracing the route pioneered by the first manned flight nearly 80 years ago.

The Aerosonde, which costs \$15,000 to build, looks like a slightly bigger version of the model planes enthusiasts fly in parks. About 5ft long, it has a light wing span and weighs 29lb, including 11lb of fuel. If the calculations are right, it will take off from Newfoundland early in August and land near a golf course in the west



Aerosonde, retracing pioneer flight. PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE PENNMAN

of Ireland 30 hours later. "It's a Spirit of St Louis stuff," said Cliff Mass of the University of Washington, in Seattle, referring to the plane in which Charles Lindbergh made the first solo Atlantic flight in 1927.

Prof Mass and an engineering team from the Washington-based Insitu Group have calculated that there will be

an opportunity for the attempt in August, when gales are less likely to keep the tail winds will be at their best.

Three Aerosondes will be taken to Bell Island, near St John's in Newfoundland, from where two will be launched to fly north on a great circle route. If they make it, they will land at Bell

Island, County Mayo, 1,900 miles away. The third will be launched if the others fail. The flight path will almost exactly retrace the route taken by John Alcock and Arthur Brown in a Vickers Vimy in June 1919.

Three engineers will supervise the launch from Newfoundland, and two more will travel ahead to Ireland to land the planes. Insitu's president, Ted McGee, believes chances of success are "substantially better than 50 per cent".

The planes will fly at between 5,000 and 15,000 feet, depending on the weather, at an average speed of 50 knots. They will be out of radio contact for all but the first and last 60 miles, but will be guided by a computer-controlled autopilot and global positioning system. Apart from engine failure, the chief problem facing the engineers is the danger of icing.

The Aerosonde has been developed commercially as an unmanned collector of meteorological data. The plane is already in use by the Pacific coast of the United States and Canada, and by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology.

It's in with the old after two years, as the new is spun aside

continued from page 1 programme reflect political decision. The vaunted promise to cut the welfare budget dramatically, as the main way of paying for the opportunity infrastructure, has yet to come anywhere near fulfilment. By far the largest gap in the agenda, and the one that featured least conspicuously in Brown's copious promises of imminent announcements to flesh out his figures, is welfare reform. The relevant cabinet committee is finding it far harder to agree on a coherent way forward than, in the halcyon honeymoon days, they once expected.

That, however, is post-honeymoon life. More ominously clouding this is the predictable public pay crisis, and the predictable economy. The CSR

rests heavily on a distinction between current and capital spending categories which don't sustain the vice and virtue they're supposed to be swathed in. In what sense is a new school more important than well-paid teachers to the national goal of better education? Not merely the public sector unions will ask that kind of question.

And then, if growth, inflation and unemployment turn seriously bad, which they might, education and health will not receive the boodles which the whole of yesterday's statement was dedicated to supplying. In the highest reaches of the government, a recession is not expected. What they see at present is exaggerated pessimism, offsetting the exaggerated op-

timism of a year ago. They're unusually confident about class-sizes and waiting-lists, knowing that, if the economy does turn down, every other priority can be made to suffer to make sure they're kept. That would be a dismal outcome. But a version of it is quite likely. Asking for the opposite is expecting quite a lot. Events get in the way of the most careful plans, and these plans are, on the whole, a prudent mixture of caution and ambition.

They are the defining event of the Blair government in both a resonant and a salutary sense. They do proclaim the continuing existence of a project that might be called, after all, social democratic: a belief in the public good attainable by public means,

without any more nonsense about the minimal state, or flirtations with private health provision. They speak for a world which, in the basic services that citizens depend on, insists there is still such a thing as society.

On the other hand, the furtherance of this world doesn't come easily. The life of nations isn't pain-free assurance but a constant struggle. It isn't just a matter of attitude, convincingly though Mr Brown revived attitudes from the near-ruins of doctored blandness. It depends on money that may not be made, answers that may not be available, global tendencies that are mostly out of reach. As it always did, whether the majority was two or 200.

Essential information.



Try Which? for 3 months and pick up a Databank absolutely free.

You need all the facts to make an informed decision. For example, how would you know which P.C., mortgage, child seat or pension to buy?

This is where Which? can help. Every month, we'll bring you detailed reports on a range of consumer goods and services — from training shoes to TESSAs. And because our advice is accurate, honest and totally independent, you can rely on us to guide you to the best purchase. This will not only save you the time

and trouble of shopping around, but will also save you money.

Try Which? absolutely free for 3 months (4 if you reply within 7 days) and you'll receive a free multi-function Databank. This will help you to keep track of personal details, such as names, dates and telephone numbers. It also features a calculator, alarm and a world time clock.

So complete and return the order form today and you'll know exactly where to find the information you need.

SUMMARY OF TERMS OF THE OFFER: Free trial subscription to Which? magazine, comprising the August, September and October issues as they are published, plus bonus reports. 4 Free July issue. If you reply within 7 days of this multi-function Databank. 4 Just fill in the enclosed direct debiting business order and send to Which? FREEPOST, Hertsford X, SG14 1YB. 4 If you do not wish to continue beyond your free trial, simply write to us at the above FREEPOST address, and to your bank/building society to cancel your direct debit, before 1st November 1998. You can keep everything you have already received and won't owe us a penny. 4 No action is necessary if you wish to continue. We will send you Which? each month for £14.75 a quarter, until you cancel, or until we advise you of a change in price. 4 We would give you at least 4 weeks notice of any price change, so you would have plenty of time to decide whether to continue — you are of course free to cancel at any time. 4 Get your free July issue — post this coupon today!

NO STAMP NEEDED • SEND NO MONEY

To: Which?, Freepost, Hertsford X, SG14 1YB

Please send me the next 3 months' issues of Which? magazine as they appear, and any bonus reports, plus extra issue (depending on the speed of my reply). I do not want to pay anything until 1st November 1998. I can cancel at any time during the free trial period and keep everything that I have received. Otherwise my subscription will bring me Which? each month for the current price of £14.75 a quarter.

Signed _____ Date _____	
Name of Account Holder(s) _____	
Bank/Building Society Account number _____	
Branch Code _____	
Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society in BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE _____	
To: The Manager _____ Bank/Building Society _____	
Postcode _____	
Reference No. (for office use only) _____	

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Please pay Which? Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the authorisation of the account holder. I understand that this instruction may remain valid for 12 months, and it shall be the responsibility of the account holder to notify the bank or building society.

Date of this payment on or within one calendar month from 1st November 1998

Your name and address in BLOCK LETTERS, PLEASE _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Printed Address _____

Printed Postcode _____

*Bank/Building Society may not accept Direct Debits from some types of account.

□ Tick here if you do not wish to receive promotional mailings from other companies.

WHICH?
THE INDEPENDENT CONSUMER GUIDE

7A/98W



In G2 today: James Campbell on the enduring appeal of Anaïs Nin and her erotic tales

Why wunderkids are getting weird • Roy Greenlade • Can Labour deliver on its transport white paper • Kantos

Study finds silicone gel safe but hits at private surgeons over hard-sell, and lack of qualifications and warnings, writes Sarah Boseley

Clinics attacked on breast implants



Typical cosmetic surgery adverts in a women's magazine

SILICONE gel breast implants were yesterday cleared of making women ill, but private clinics advertising such cosmetic surgery were lambasted for hard-sell techniques, unqualified surgeons and failure to tell women about the risks.

An Independent Review Group set up by the Government recommended that the 8,000 women a year seeking breast-enlarging surgery should receive full information and a checklist of topics to be raised by the surgeon before the operation. Baroness Jay, the Health Minister, accepted the recommendation.

"The quality and type of information provided to patients in the private sector varies considerably," said David Sturrock, Professor of Rheumatology at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, who chaired the group's inquiry. All advertisements for cosmetic breast operations which appear in the

back pages of many women's magazines will have to tell potential customers where they can get detailed information about potential risks and side-effects, from ruptured implants to scars and wrinkles. A cooling-off period of several days will allow the women to change her mind, without losing money.

The private clinics are not subject to the controls that apply in the NHS. David Sharp, President of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, said that some breast implant operations were done by doctors whose specialism was not plastic surgery — they could be gynaecologists or ear, nose and throat specialists.

The British Association of Plastic Surgeons recently recruited volunteers to contact 16 private clinics, asking for information about breast implants. "Many of the women who were in our study are still being pursued by the clinics a

year later," he said. The clinics obtained their phone numbers from directory inquiries and called trying to persuade them to have operations, offering discounts. "These are practices more suited to a double-glazing salesman," said Professor Sharp, director of Plastic Surgery at the University of Bradford. Private clinics were often staffed by "surgeons who may not have made the grade," he said. "Most consultants would rather be employed in the NHS than work at a cheap rate in a cowboy clinic. They will be given very small sums for doing the surgery."

A breast implant was not a

complicated operation and people not properly accredited were doing it. A trained chiropodist could put in a breast implant," he said. "I know of only one accredited surgeon in a cosmetic clinic." Women should contact the General Medical Council to find out whether their surgeon was on the specialist register. Professor Sharp said women who wanted breast implants should see their GP, who could advise them where to go. But many women contacted private clinics because they did not want their GP to know.

On the main issue it was set up to address, the Independent Review Group found no

real dangers in silicone gel implants. Those women who feel they could not live without the operation, for cosmetic reasons, because of congenital defects, or mastectomy following cancer, should go ahead, said Professor Sturrock. "We want to reassure women contemplating having a breast implant that in terms of the major concerns, providing the risks and benefits are explained to them, they can make their own decision."

This is the third UK review in six years to find silicone gel implants are not harmful, but it has again failed to satisfy campaigners because of what has occurred in the US. The Food and Drug Administration has banned implants because the manufacturers, Dow Corning, have not proved they are safe.

The company has gone into bankruptcy and its parent, Dow Chemical, has offered billions of dollars to try to end

legal actions which have flooded in after the FDA ban. Campaigners say that 60,000 women in the UK have been damaged by silicone implants. They complain of disorders such as fatigue, headaches, muscle pains, memory loss and nausea. Some are unable to get out of bed.

The report says that silicone gel is not the cause of illness among some women. The group criticises "lack of scientific rigour" in some research used by American lawyers to boost compensation cases.

Margot Cameron, founder of the Silicone Support Group UK, said: "Hell will freeze over before women's groups accept the findings of six old men who don't have breasts. We wanted to be on the panel, but there were no women at all."

Two members of the panel were pro-silicone, before the inquiry began, she said.

Satirist lays on the gags to say goodbye

Johnny Speight's own jokes helped friends throw off the funeral gloom

Angela Gouthro

JOHNNY Speight kept his friends laughing until the very end. The creator of the poisonous bigot Alf Garnett managed to snatch the last laugh even at his own funeral — by providing the jokes for the ceremony.

Veteran comedians yesterday joined his widow Connie and their three children to pay tribute to the scriptwriter who died of stomach cancer last week at the age of 78.

The sombre mood of the occasion quickly evaporated when Eric Sykes, who helped Speight to fame, suggested that anyone in the congregation who felt like being mournful should go home and watch TV. The rest of the service was decidedly upbeat. The vicar

said he had never laughed so much at a funeral.

Warren Mitchell — who for decades starred as Garnett, the incoherent East End racist of Speight's most famous series, *Till Death Do Us Part*, and *In Sickness And In Health* — said he had taken advice from the writer on what he ought to say at the funeral.

"I spoke to Johnny just a couple of weeks ago... I said: 'I'm a bit worried, I'll probably have to speak. Could you write me something, since you always write my words?' He smiled and said: 'You know what Spike Milligan said recently? I only hope I don't die before Harry Secombe. I don't want him singing at my funeral'."

"He asked: 'What are you going to say?' I suggested I said he was the greatest political satirist since Jonathan Swift. He said: 'God no, don't say that. I don't want to be embarrassed at my own funeral.'"

Mitchell also addressed the still contentious question of whether Speight's controversial scripts ridiculed racism or pandered to

some viewers' prejudices. "Racism was a subject that often came up," Mitchell told the packed crematorium at Atherstone, Buckinghamshire. "Johnny was incapable of being a racist. His contempt was reserved for those ignorant louts who really did believe that their white skin — nasty pun pallo usually — made them superior to others."

William G Stewart, the quiz show host, said Speight, who sensed he had fallen out with the BBC establishment, had been "raging at the timidity and political correctness that threatened to endanger British broadcasting" only days before he died.

Friends, including Milligan, Lionel Bart, Denis Norden, Jean Boht, and Tony Booth, appeared moved. Booth, who played Alf Garnett's son-in-law in *Till Death Do Us Part*, and now father-in-law to Tony Blair, said: "It would take pages to express what he meant to me. I loved him."

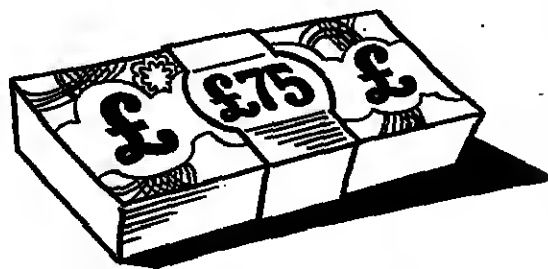
Milligan said: "Wherever you are, I hope you're happy. I'll miss you."



The actors Tony Booth (left) and Warren Mitchell among mourners at the funeral yesterday of Johnny Speight

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN GOWEN

Take a last look at the £75 you could have saved on your home insurance.



With Direct Line, you could save up to £75 on your home insurance. And if your mortgage provider imposes a fee for switching your home insurance to us, we'll even refund it, up to £25.

CALL 0113 292 7194 FOR LOW COST HOME INSURANCE

8am-8pm MON-FRI / 9am-5pm SAT

Please quote ref: 327



DIRECT LINE
HOME INSURANCE

The company may monitor telephone conversations with the aim of improving its service.

Hague all ears on 'listen' tour

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

IT BEGAN yesterday to a Cool Britannia white-walled loft in a converted house in Soho; it will end in town halls the length and breadth of Britain.

The Conservative Party's listening tour, launched under the banner *Listening to Britain*, will show the eagerly listening Tories whether Britain is still listening to them.

To an audience of shadow ministers and party officials sporting "Listening to Britain" badges, their leader, William Hague, unveiled "the largest, most ambitious listening exercise" ever carried out by a British party.

The year-long campaign, which will see Tory front and backbenchers and activists attending 150 public meetings across the country, doubles as an act of courting for past arrogance and a way of picking up on voters' concerns and priorities.

Mr Hague, striding through London's neo-industrial Imaginology Gallery to the accompaniment of rave-style repetitive beats, said the exercise represented "a new type of political meeting, where people come along to speak out and politicians come along to listen to them."

People were "tired of being fed soap powder politics by politicians who think their time is always better spent in TV studios than in meeting the public face to face. They are hungry for real political meetings where their voices can be heard."

Real political meetings, it emerged, will be held to town halls and attended by a cross-section of voters or by groups

of workers such as teachers or health service staff. A moderator chairs the event, while a Tory MP sits humbly in one corner, absorbing criticism and filing away views and ideas to feed back to Tory Central Office.

The party has tested the formula at three pilot events and is convinced it works. Asked whether voters really wanted to spend evenings in draughty town halls, Mr Hague cried: "They will enjoy it!" A group of health service workers he spoke to yesterday had enjoyed the meeting enormously.

The Conservatives insist that the tour is not an attempt to ask the public to make policy for the party, nor a signal that it is preparing to dump long-standing principles.

Deputy leader Peter Lilley said: "A car company developing its next model will consult its potential customers about transportation needs. But it won't ask them to design the engine or tell it the principles of engineering."

Through the tour findings will influence the party's next manifesto, the policy on the European single currency — ruled out for 10 years — will remain set in stone, Mr Hague made clear.

Contrasting the campaign with other parties' listening exercises, including "Labour Listens", the Tories said it was designed to reach a broad span of voters and would not be hijacked by special interest groups.

Though the series of meetings — 50 attended by MPs and 100 more organised by constituency associations — will last a year, Mr Hague plans to continue the exercise "indefinitely" if it proves successful.

Prison staff foil Nilsen memoir

Luke Harding

AN ATTEMPT by the jailed serial killer Dennis Nilsen to publish an autobiography has been thwarted by prison officers who monitored his mail.

Nilsen, who is serving life for the murder of up to 15 young men, was about to sign a £200,000 book deal when the contract was intercepted. The Prison Service confirmed yesterday.

His secret negotiations with publishers will inevitably reopen the row about criminals who profit from their crimes — a controversy begun in April when the *Guardian* revealed the author Gitta Sereny paid the child-killer, Mary Bell, for her co-operation on her book, *Cries Unheard*.

Nilsen's contract was believed to have guaranteed him about £100,000 for his 450-page memoir, which was expanded from material written in jail as part of a therapeutic exercise. The killer had earlier claimed in a letter to the press that profits from his book would go to charity.

The Prison Service is reported to be investigating how the manuscript, provisionally entitled *Nilsen: History of a Drowning Man*, was smuggled out of the top security Whitmore prison in Cambridgeshire.

The manuscript is written in cold and detached prose, and describes how Nilsen murdered his victims.

A Prison Service spokesman said yesterday that there was a long-standing rule that serving inmates were not allowed to profit from or talk about their crimes. He added: "Prisoners are allowed to

make genuine representations about the justice system, but this was deemed to be a business activity, and thus in breach of regulations."

The letter was intercepted last week. The publisher has not been identified.

At the time of the Mary Bell affair, the Attorney General, John Morris QC, considered trying to retrieve the payment made by Gitta Sereny, but concluded there was no basis to law for such a move. Since then senior Home Office officials, at the request of the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, have been considering how to close the loophole which allows convicted killers to be paid by publishers but not newspapers.

One survivor of an attack by Nilsen, Carl Stott, aged 51, has written to the Home Office demanding he should not profit by his book. "Whatever he makes will not compensate for the damage he has done."

In a letter to the Sunday Telegraph written six weeks ago, Nilsen denied asking for £100,000 and said it was "entirely untrue" to suggest he wanted any payment.

Nilsen, aged 51, a civil servant, lured young men to his homes in Cricklewood and Muswell Hill, north London. After strangling them he performed bizarre rituals on their bodies, which he later dismembered. He was sentenced to life in 1983.

In his book he blames his killings on a loveless childhood that left him with a craving to be looked after. He wanted their dead bodies for his fantasy. "I pretended it was me being cared for and at the same time I was also the carer looking after them."

Why stay with an existing motor policy if it gives you less and costs you more?



CALL NOW
0800 670 620

Motor Insurance **DIRECT**



ABBEY NATIONAL
Because life's complicated enough.

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm. In respect of us improving our service we may record or monitor all calls. Abbey National, the Abbey National logo and the words "Because life's complicated enough" are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey National General Insurance Services Ltd, registered office, 215-229 Baker Street, London W1P 6DL, registered in England, registered number 3017022.



St Vincent House (left), next to the National Gallery, has been bought for £17.5 million as an investment for the future

National Gallery buys hotel for future growth

Don Gislister
Arts Correspondent

THE National Gallery yesterday unveiled ambitious plans to expand with the £17.5 million purchase of a large property at the rear of its existing site.

St Vincent House, which houses a hotel, was bought for the gallery by the NGF Foundation, a private charitable trust, with funds provided by the American Friends of the Gallery.

Initially the new building, situated behind the gallery's Sainsbury Wing, will provide office space for the gallery's staff. But when the hotel's lease runs out in 30 years' time, the building could be used as gallery space.

National Gallery chairman Philip Hughes described the investment as being "for the benefit of our successors". Speaking of future develop-

Smugglers extort money from illegal immigrants

Chinese fall prey to kidnap gangs

Vikram Dodd

FIFTEEN Chinese illegal immigrants have been taken hostage by kidnap gangs in Britain in the last 18 months, according to a confidential police document.

The kidnappers target arrivals who owe thousands of pounds to "snakeheads", people who help smuggle them into Britain. The immigrants are predominantly from the Fujian province in south-eastern China and agree to pay up to £20,000 to escape.

Last month police freed five Fujian hostages after raiding a flat in west London. They had been held for eight days and beaten by kidnappers who demanded a ransom from their families in China.

The Metropolitan police has recorded 15 kidnappings of Fujian illegal immigrants between January 1997 and June 1998.

According to a Met internal document, seen by the Guardian, the real figure could be much higher.

"Asylum seekers who arrive in the UK owe large sums of money to the smuggling syndicates," says the document. "It is commonplace to hear of such persons being kidnapped and beaten and held to ransom while relatives in China pay off the outstanding debt. Figures as high as £20,000 are paid. The offences that come to the attention of the police are believed to be the tip of the iceberg."

"Many of those kidnapped are victims of a second syndicate who take the opportunity to squeeze families in China for further large sums of money in order to achieve the release of their relative."



'A thousand Fujianese may find themselves prey to organised crime'

— Wah-Piow Tan
solicitor

Some kidnappers are themselves illegal immigrants who turn to extortion to pay off their debts to "snakeheads".

Chen Lee, in jail in Oxfordshire for kidnapping chef Gino Ping He in London in 1996, told BBC2's East programme, to be broadcast tomorrow, that he turned to kidnapping after work dried up. He said: "I heard stories of people who had been smuggled abroad and were making good money and sending it home from Europe or America."

It cost Chen Lee £15,000, (£10,000) to escape. He flew from China to Hong Kong with a "snakehead" and then on to Bangkok. Another "snakehead" brought him into London where he worked an

80-hour week in a Chinese restaurant for £130 a week.

The kidnappers often use extreme violence. Cao Xiaoming was chained to a radiator and beaten for 12 days in London in 1996. His kidnappers used a mobile phone to make 727 calls to his wife in Fujian demanding £40,000 for his release.

A police surgeon found Cao's eardrum had been pierced by the aerial of an Ericsson mobile phone. He was freed after a joint operation by British and Chinese police, and the kidnappers jailed for between 10 and 15 years.

A Chinese businessman, who has helped police in four kidnap operations, but does not want to be named after receiving death threats, believes many cases are never reported.

"People are scared because they are illegal immigrants," he said. "They don't want to settle in Britain, but can't return as they have no papers. Often people leave China not knowing what country in Europe they'll end up in. If they go back to Fujian with debts, they fear being beaten up."

A solicitor, Wah-Piow Tan, who represents asylum seekers from Fujian, fears the problem will get worse and that people may turn to crime if they cannot find work.

He believes the Home Office should allow the migrants to work for three years before leaving Britain.

"We have at least in London, 1,000 Fujianese who have no status, who are on the run. Unless the Home Office has a more progressive policy then there's a danger that this thousand may find themselves prey to organised crime."

CSA sums still wrong

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

THE Child Support Agency gets a quarter of estimates wrong, five years after it was created to settle maintenance for children of separated parents.

One senior MP, David Davis, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, said the findings from the National Audit Office report presented to MPs yesterday were "intolerable and totally unacceptable".

Sir John Bourn, head of the NAO, said the agency's accuracy target had been cut, from 85 per cent to 75 per cent. "Errors are still being made. In addition, the agency's performance has left a legacy of error that continues to affect amounts being paid," he said, condemning "erroneous or unexplained adjustments" in the complex formula.

The NAO, the taxpayers' accountants, found that the CSA had £1 billion of maintenance arrears and £900 million was considered "uncollectable".

The Government two weeks ago announced a much simpler formula to calculate maintenance, based on proportions of the absent parent's income. But it will not be introduced for three years, to the frustration of the CSA's clients and MPs, who say that the agency accounts for a third of their mail.

David Davis, the Tory MP whose Public Accounts Committee last year demanded a higher accuracy target for the CSA, said last night that its management illustrated "a culture of complacency".

"Last year we concluded that it was unacceptable that the agency worked to an accuracy target of only 85 per cent. We recommended the target be raised. Instead they have lowered it and now aim only

for 75 per cent." The CSA said that Sir John recognised the complexity of the legislation the agency had to implement, and that double the number of cases were being processed.

"A four-year plan is being implemented, designed to ensure that the agency can make the necessary changes and meet all the challenges they face, including delivering against more demanding targets and becoming much more cost effective and customer focused," it said.

The NAO found part of the problem lay in past errors, but said that in the past year alone, nearly 25 million was overpaid by absent parents and nearly £16 million underpaid, while £150 million of mistakes were made in the year's £412 million of maintenance assessments.

Quiz show contestant hands in prizes pending 'cheating' suit

Owen Bowcott

ATELEVISION quiz fanatic who appeared on more than 70 gameshows yesterday agreed to hand over some of his prizes to a solicitor for safekeeping while he defends his reputation against allegations of cheating.

Trevor Montague, aged 44, a chartered accountant of Crawley, West Sussex, has answered questions on winners' names on stage at the Krypton Factor, Mastermind, Countdown, Brain of Britain and Today's the Day.

But he has been put on the spot by the Fifteen-to-One television programme, which claims he broke his strict rules by appearing more than once on the quiz show.

The veteran presenter William G Stewart is suing

Mr Montague, who admits being on three series of the Channel 4 show after adopting two identities.

During an initial hearing at Wandsworth county court, south-west London, Mr Montague said he was "only having a joke" and had gained no advantage when he appeared as an Italian actor, Steve Romana.

Mr Stewart did not attend court because he was giving an address at the funeral of the scriptwriter Johnny Spaight.

After listening to Mr Montague's defence, District Judge Michael Walker ordered that his prizes — two decanters, two globes and a plinth — be given in for safekeeping.

The judge adjourned the hearing pending further affidavits from both the contestant and Mr Stewart. It is due to resume in September.

Fury over Robinson leak

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

MPs on the powerful Commons standards committee were wrong last night after learning that government spin doctors had claimed that Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, will be exonerated today of breaking parliamentary rules.

The MPs were furious that details of a last-minute appeal by the minister to MPs examining the case were given to journalists on Monday.

The committee yesterday agreed a unanimous report, published today, on whether Mr Robinson had broken the rules by failing to declare his directorships in the Commons Register of Members' Interests.

The central allegation is that he failed to declare a £200,000 directorship as chair-

man of Hollis Industries, owned by the disgraced tycoon Robert Maxwell.

Robinson has denied receiving the money or breaching Commons rules. He has said the firm's accounts recording the payment were wrong.

He is also accused of failing to declare £150,000 from Central & Sherwood, also owned by the late Mr Maxwell. Mr Robinson said he got the payment too late to declare it before the deadline for annual publication of the register.

But spin doctors, speaking on behalf of Mr Robinson, disclosed that he had sent a new letter to MPs saying that Arthur Andersen, receivers of the bankrupt Hollis Industries, could find no trace of the payment.

Journalists were told: "He will be totally exonerated. They have the information to show he received nothing."

last night the findings were "far more complex".

One Labour MP told the Guardian: "I have contacted the chairman to see if any information given on Mr Robinson's behalf was a breach of privilege." Another disagreed: "Mr Robinson is entitled to release information in his defence."

The Conservatives called for Tony Blair to sack the minister if the committee fails to clear him completely. They highlighted the case of Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool West Derby, who was suspended from the Commons for a week after failing to register a directorship and shareholding.

Francis Maude, shadow chancellor, said Mr Blair would "stand condemned by his pledge that all malefactors would be 'out on their ear' if he failed to dismiss Mr Robinson if he got 'anything less than an unqualified clearance'."

News in brief

Police question jockey over party

CHAMPION jockey Pat Eddery yesterday voluntarily attended an Oxfordshire police station to answer questions over allegations that he stripped at his 13-year-old daughter's birthday party. He was released without charge.

His solicitor said in a statement: "Pat Eddery has today voluntarily spoken with officers of the Thames Valley Police as a result of the allegations appearing in the Sun today."

"He categorically denies the allegations."

A spokeswoman for Thames Valley Police said the matter was still being investigated.

Draper quits Labour journal

LOBBYIST Derek Draper last night severed another embarrassing link by resigning as director of Progress, the New Labour magazine.

With Labour MPs today likely to demand his expulsion from the party for bringing Labour into disrepute, the loquacious lobbyist told the magazine's financial backer, Michael Montague: "While I have now cleared my name — and people know I have done nothing dishonest or wrong — I realise that my boisterous and brash behaviour has reflected on Progress and those associated with it. I regret that and offer my apologies."

But Mr Draper is a hard man to apologise. He starts a column on the Daily Telegraph tomorrow before heading for a weekend break in Spain to recover from the traumas of the week since he returned to face the crisis from a short break in Italy. "I am also in negotiation with others about a book, and radio and TV work," he tells Mr Montague in his letter. — Michael White Contracts for MPs, page 8

Court told how baby died

A BABY BOY showed classic signs of "shaken infant syndrome" after he died from a massive brain injury while in the care of his childminder, a pathologist told Norwich crown court yesterday.

Joseph Mackin, aged five months, was "shaken backwards and forwards as hard as you possibly can," said Nat Cary on the second day of the trial of childminder Helen Stacey, aged 41, of North Walsham in Norfolk. She denies murdering the child at her home on May 13, 1997.

His parents, Anthony and Corinne Mackin, also of North Walsham, have told the court that he was healthy when left at 7am, but was "floppy like a rag doll" when seen at 8.15pm, and declared dead an hour later.

Trance volunteer cried 'kill McKenna'

Nick Hopkins

THE girlfriend of a man who claims that the hypnotist Paul McKenna turned him into a schizophrenic yesterday as she described his mental breakdown.

Beverly Gibbs told the High Court that Christopher Gages, aged 30, went through an "horrendous" ordeal after seeing one of Mr McKenna's live shows. She said he would pace around his bedroom at night chanting "kill McKenna".

Mr McKenna, a hypnotist, refused to take shows because he feared the hypnosis was waiting for him in the bathroom, and thought monsters were lurking outside his house. "I could not stand to see the man I love behaving like this," she said.

Mr McKenna, of Downley, Buckinghamshire, and Ms Gibbs attended the show at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe on March 10, 1994.

Mr McKenna volunteered to be put in a trance and was made to believe he was a ballet dancer, the Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, an interpreter for aliens from outer space, a contestant on Blind Date, an orchestra conductor and a naughty schoolboy.

Nine days after the performance, Mr McKenna, a furniture polisher, was admitted to a psychiatric unit suffering from acute schizophrenia and has not worked since. He is suing Mr McKenna for damages of £200,000, claiming that the illness was caused by his negligence.

Yesterday, Ms Gibbs told Mr Justice Toulson that Mr McKenna led her to believe that she was up there waiting when he asked for volunteers. She thought his enthusiasm had been triggered by Mr McKenna's choice of words.

She remembered he had said: "If anybody wants to come up, they should come up... Now!" She said her boyfriend was a karate devotee, and the word "now" was one he had been trained to obey.

It was "out of character for him to be the star of the show," she said. "He felt a compulsion to get up there."

After the show, Mr McKenna's eyes were "glassy", he complained of headaches and had aggressive outbursts, including smashing up his stereo.

"He was scared to go up there because he felt McKenna was up there waiting for him," said Ms Gibbs. "He thought God was watching him, telling him off for things that he had done in the past."

Cross-examined by Roger Henderson QC, Ms Gibbs admitted her boyfriend had suffered personal traumas before 1994: divorce from his wife, Tracy, in 1988, and a car crash he had caused by drink driving before Christmas in 1992.

He had been mistakenly worried that his stupidity could have killed a child.

Mr Henderson suggested that Mr McKenna was also concerned about losing his job, and that these emotionally charged "life events" had caused him to become ill, not Mr McKenna's hypnosis.

Ms Gibbs denied that Mr McKenna was "already not quite himself" before the show.

Mr Henderson also questioned the couple's motives. They had sold their story to the News of the World, and Ms Gibbs had seen a lawyer only a few days after the show about suing Mr McKenna.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

Mr McKenna, of Kensington, London, denies negligence and contends that Mr McKenna's illness was not caused by hypnosis. The hearing continues today.

London gets with it, after a fashion

Susannah Barron on the young designers making their mark with a first show for men

IT WAS a long time in coming, but the first London Men's Fashion Week swung down the catwalk yesterday, following the example set by the Paris, Milan and New York menswear shows.

Lasting three days, the event, at the Café Royal, London, has 12 catwalk shows, an exhibition for 22 designers, and assorted presentations and parties.

Appropriately, it kicked off in Savile Row — home of traditional English tailoring — where the designer Margaret Howell was opening her new menswear store.

Richard Craig, Margaret Howell's managing direc-

tor, said: "Hopefully, this is the start of something. We have the design talent, and can keep it going."

The week does not have all the big name designers. Paul Smith opted to take his spring/summer '99 collection to Paris as usual, and Vivienne Westwood, who shows her menswear in Milan, was absent but sent a message of support.

But the event is heavy with new talent for barely three years, unveiled a street-smart collection, with subtly shiny trousers worn with bomber jackets, vests and boxy shirts — inspired, apparently, by young criminals.

Yesterday's schedule, however, also found room for the more established Paul Costelloe, among such young guns as Limehaus, Designworks, and Ken Odum.

London Men's Fashion Week is not yet on a par with the menswear shows in Italy and France. Milan is seen as the male fashion capital, attracting big hitters such as Calvin Klein, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Donna Karan alongside Armani, Versace and Dolce & Gabbana. But the organisers were undaunted. "Our aim is to find a niche in the market," said John Rowley, London Men's Fashion Week organiser.

"It competes with Milan and Paris, but gives a platform to new talent."

Style, G2, page 8

Simple and sublime... models show Neil Adams' street-wise collection

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

School in well-to-do Henley forced to pay pupils to clean

Vivak Chaudhary
Education Correspondent

PUPILS at an Oxfordshire school have been recruited as part-time cleaners because too few adults will work for the wages.

Sixteen pupils at Gillotts school, Henley-on-Thames, will earn up to £12.50 per week for a maximum six hours a day over the summer holidays.

Duties will include cleaning toilets, floors and carpets. Only pupils aged over 15 are being taken on.

The school said it had to recruit pupils because lack of interest from adult cleaners was affecting standards of cleanliness.

It said that, because people in the area were wealthy, adults did not want to work as cleaners at a rate of £3.75 an

hour. A letter sent to parents from governors said that there had been concern over the lack of cleaners for some time and that a thorough four-week clean up was needed.

The letter added: "Among other advantages, the involvement of students in maintaining their working environment will, we hope, have a positive knock-on effect."

John Lockyer, the head teacher, said: "We have a problem in this area with recruiting adult cleaners because the rates of pay are so high in this particular area."

Mr Lockyer said that employing pupils was like giving them a summer job.

"It is possible we might consider employing them regularly in the evenings if we continue to have problems recruiting," he said.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

Kohl rival in U-turn on single currency

Stephen Bates
in Strasbourg

GERHARD Schröder, Germany's Social Democrat leader and favourite to beat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in September's elections, staged a spectacular conversion to Euro-enthusiasm at the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday.

With Mr Kohl apparently growing ever more sceptical about Germany's relations with Europe as he struggles against his rival's 10-point lead in polls, Mr Schröder chose his first official visit to the parliament to announce his conversion to the single currency and a more federal

presidency at the beginning of next year.

His attitude would be crucial to the launch of the single currency and the EU's programme of structural reforms, including wholesale revision of the common agricultural policy.

Mr Schröder conceded Germany would remain a chief contributor to the EU's budget, would support EU institutional reforms and could back greater flexibility in decision-making — issues on which Mr Kohl has expressed increasing reservations.

"The Federal Republic will continue to be a large net contributor in the future; as a relatively prosperous country it will not evade its responsibility in solidarity with the other member states. Every one knows that a simplistic I-want-my-money-back policy is bound to fail," he said.

His change in attitude contrasts strongly with the tactics of the leader with whom he is most often compared, Tony Blair, who before and since the last general election has been very cautious about striking Euro-enthusiast attitudes for domestic consumption.

German commentators said last night that the remarks, cutting across Mr Kohl's position, were sure to loom large in the election campaign and represented a growing recognition by Mr Schröder and his advisers that no German chancellor could sustain a Euro-sceptic position.

At a press conference Mr Schröder said: "We have to make the single currency a success, whatever the view was in the past. It must not be allowed to fail, because the implications would be cruel for the people of Europe."

In a final swipe at his rival he added: "I appreciate the historic achievements of Chancellor Kohl and, however acrimonious the election campaign becomes, I would never deny them."



Iraqi women attend a rally in Baghdad yesterday to mark the 40th anniversary of the coup that overthrew King Faisal II and created a republic

PHOTOGRAPH BY KARIM SAHBI

Raped for the 'crime' of being Chinese

John Aglionby reports from Medan, Sumatra, where women are terrorised out of envy

LISA'S relatives are amazed she is still alive. On June 18, a week after her ninth birthday, this Chinese-Indonesian girl who lives 20 miles outside the north Sumatran city of Medan chose to walk home from school alone rather than wait for her elder sister Martha.

She never made it. Less than 400 yards from her house a man on a motorbike stopped and offered Lisa a lift. She accepted but the man, named Yudi, drove straight past her house without stopping. He took her instead to a nearby sugarcane field and raped her before taking her back to his house 50 miles away.

There, with the knowledge of his wife and three children, he kept Lisa, who is less than 4ft and weighs only three and

a half stone, incarcerated for six days. "Lisa does not remember being raped again but she said Yudi dragged her seven times during that time and on each occasion she woke up in great pain," Lisa's mother Ekki said. "We are convinced she was raped again and again."

Early on June 24 Yudi returned Lisa to her home. She spent the next 10 days in hospital. Even though she led the police to Yudi's house, she is afraid to go home and is staying with friends, along with her mother and two sisters.

Martha said Lisa's ordeal was not an isolated case. "Hundreds of Chinese women have been raped or assaulted around here since May and the rapes are still going on." Only a couple of days before,

a 58-year-old Chinese woman had been raped.

The sexual terrorism of the Chinese community in and around Indonesia's third-largest city began in early May when riots broke out after several protests against the then president, Suharto.

While the looting and burnings of Chinese properties stopped after a week, the rape of women of the minority that is hated and envied for its economic success has continued. Yet only five women have reported being raped or sexually assaulted.

Sabaruddin, the head of the Medan branch of the Indonesian Advocacy Association, said there were three reasons why more people had not come forward. "They are too shy because of the stigma; they don't know

where to report, because they don't trust the police and there are no women's support groups; and they are afraid of being terrorised again."

Another reason why more people are not campaigning to end the atrocities is that, unlike in Jakarta where many women were raped and killed in riots in May, only one rape-linked death has been confirmed in Medan.

"She was a 17-year-old schoolgirl who was kidnapped in a taxi while going home with a friend," said a Chinese woman who asked to remain anonymous.

"The friend managed to escape but this other girl was taken away." She was found unconscious a few days later, her body covered in Arabic graffiti and her vagina full of broken glass and nails.

"She was so badly injured and so badly traumatised her mother asked the doctors to end her life," the woman said, adding that other women had

probably died but their fates would never be known.

"Many of the Chinese here are Buddhist and they have to bury their dead the same day. This is more important for them than to keep the body as evidence and report the case to the police."

"They are targeting rich and poor alike," said one of Martha's friends. "They just seem to hate us and want to keep us living in fear."

Four other Chinese women have moved into the same house as Ekki and her daughters. They rarely go out and never alone. The front door is locked and protected by metal grilles. Few Chinese women are seen on the streets.

The police have formed a team to investigate the rapes but no one in the Chinese community expects results.

"Even though we knew where Yudi lived, we had to go to the police twice and pay them before they acted," said Yusuf Suci, a businessman

friend of Lisa's family, who helped after the ordeal.

The attack on Medan's Chinese community eclipses even the events of 1965. Then hundreds were killed in Medan during a nationwide purge of communists and, by association, Chinese, in the wake of a failed coup blamed on the Communist Party.

Chinese-owned shops and businesses are also attacked. In Celang, 25 miles from Medan, a mob attacked 42 shops owned by Chinese-Indonesians, stealing or damaging goods. "The mob only left the clothes I was wearing," said Siau Lie, the owner of a electronic goods shop.

On Saturday three chicken farms outside the city were attacked. All the hens were stolen and the buildings burned. Ong Akui, who owned one of them, said: "It seems they want to drive us away but we have nowhere to go. So we have to stay here living in terror and poverty."

New York jury deals blow to firebrand reverend

Joanna Coles in New York

THE Reverend Al Sharpton, New York's most controversial black rights activist, suffered a crushing setback in his hopes of being elected as the city's mayor when he and two of his former advisers were found liable for defaming a young prosecutor by accusing him of rape he did not commit.

As he waited to find out how large the damages against him would be, Mr Sharpton — model for the rabble-rousing Reverend Martin Luther King Jr in Tom Wolfe's *Bonfire of the Vanities* — insisted he would appeal against the verdict.

The trial in Poughkeepsie, in New York state, had been extraordinarily bitter — extra security officers had to be drafted in after lawyers threatened each other, and on one occasion the judge walked out saying he could stand no more.

But after the eight-month hearing, the jury — which by the end had dwindled to just

six members, four white and two black — found that Mr Sharpton, Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason had recklessly defamed Steven Pagnone by publicly stating that he had orchestrated the kidnapping, gang rape and sodomy of a 15-year-old black girl, Tawana Brawley.

When Tawana disappeared from her home in November 1987, the country was split along racial lines. She returned four days later, claiming to have been abducted and raped by "white cops". She was apparently found by her mother in a dustbin bag covered in faeces with the word "nigger" scrawled over her chest.

Mr Sharpton, together with Mr Mason and Mr Maddox, both lawyers, immediately appointed himself Tawana's adviser and held rallies in New York to garner support and publicity for her cause.

Three months later, after a police investigation made no headway, he held a televised press conference and accused Mr Pagnone, a young lawyer working in the local district

attorney's office, of leading the gang rape. The basis of his allegations was that Tawana had once pointed to Mr Pagnone's face in a local paper.

Mr Pagnone, who needed bodyguards at his wedding in 1988, always denied the accusations. Eight months later a grand jury exonerated him, deciding that Tawana had concocted the story with her mother to deceive her violent stepfather after she spent four nights with a boyfriend.

Ms Brawley has never spoken publicly about what she claims happened to her. She only wrote it down, once, on a notepad belonging to a black policeman.

Now a nurse in Washington, she refused yet again to comment yesterday, saying she wanted her private life to remain private. Though she has been subpoenaed many times, she has consistently failed to turn up for any hearing and has been declared in contempt of court many times.

Though Mr Pagnone began his suit 10 years ago, the three defendants delayed court proceedings until last

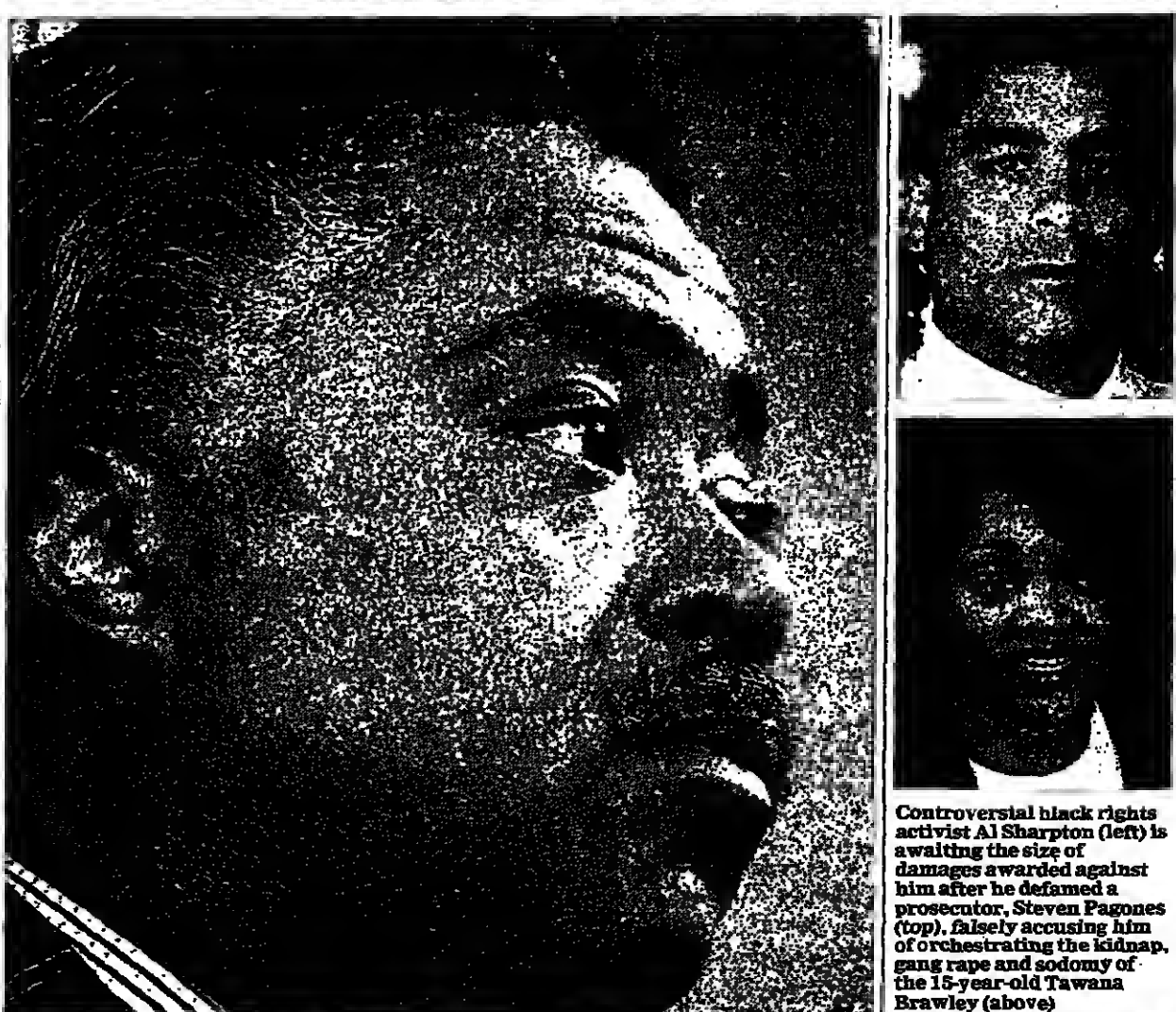
November. Dozens of witnesses, including the medical staff who treated Tawana in hospital after she was found, were required to give evidence. None believed she had been raped.

Though it became increasingly clear that Tawana's story was not all it seemed, Mr Sharpton repeated his accusations over the years. Yesterday, still with eyes on a mayoral election or even a seat in the United States Senate, he said he would continue to fight for the truth.

The trial cost Mr Pagnone \$300,000 (£190,000) in legal fees and his job in the district attorney's office, after it was decided the publicity would harm his office. Though resolutely vindicated, he said the trial had been "bitter-sweet".

"There's a lot of pain," Mr Pagnone said. "A lot of wounds were opened."

As they waited to hear what punitive damages would be awarded against them, Mr Maddox and Mr Mason let it be known they were bankrupt. Mr Sharpton's finances remain more of a mystery.



Controversial black rights activist Al Sharpton (left) is awaiting the size of damages awarded against him after he defamed a prosecutor, Steven Pagnone (top), falsely accusing him of orchestrating the kidnapping, gang rape and sodomy of the 15-year-old Tawana Brawley (above)

education

Every Tuesday in the

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

UK denies querying Czech choice

Neal Ascherson

BRITAIN yesterday denied it had objected to the appointment of Jan Kavan, a controversial former London-based dissident, as foreign minister in the Czech government now being formed.

Mr Kavan, a senator, is the front-runner for the post in the minority Social Democrat cabinet. He is attacked by political rivals on the grounds that he is unacceptable in Britain and has been convicted of perjury in a British court.

In a highly unusual move, the Foreign Office issued a statement saying there was "no question" of Mr Kavan being *persona non grata*.

"It is for the Czechs to choose their own foreign minister," the statement said. "We would have no

objections to the appointment of Mr Kavan... He is a frequent and welcome visitor here. He was here last week as part of a delegation accompanying the chairman of the Czech senate, Mr Petr Pithart."

In a letter to Mr Kavan in June last year, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: "I have taken the precaution of having the official record checked. I can confirm that there is no suggestion that you have ever been guilty of committing perjury in the United Kingdom or, indeed, any other similar offence."

An official source said Mr Kavan enjoyed warm personal relations with Mr Cook. It is understood he is also on good terms with George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, whom he got to know during his 20-year ex-

ile in London. Mr Kavan, whose mother was English, lived in London between the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989. During those years he supplied information about Czech dissidents and the Charter 77 movement to the British media, and maintained secret links with opposition groups in Czechoslovakia.

This is the latest chapter in a saga of accusations that has plagued Mr Kavan in London and Prague. The "perjury" charge, raised last Saturday in an open letter published in Prague and signed by a group of rightwing politicians, refers not to a court case but to hearings by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BBC).

In 1981 Mr Kavan accused the British television journalist Julian Man-

nion of falsely stating in a programme that a van with banned material sent secretly to Prague by Mr Kavan and seized by the Czech secret police had contained a list of dissident names and addresses.

The BBC found against Mr Mannion. But in 1992, on the basis of documents from the secret police archives, it reversed its judgment and said Mr Kavan had "misled" it by withholding important information. Mr Kavan excuses himself by saying that in 1981 he had to protect underground contacts.

Last month's Czech parliamentary elections left the Social Democrats, Mr Kavan's party, as the largest party but without an absolute majority. Milos Zeman, the party leader and prime minister-in-waiting, is trying to form a minority government.

Chirac uses World Cup win to kick at racists

Anti-immigrant sentiments are suddenly out of fashion in France, writes Paul Webster

PRESIDENT Jacques Chirac yesterday paid tribute to France's "tricolour and multi-colour" triumph in winning the World Cup, and warned the right wing to drop support for National Front policy on racial discrimination.

The Gaullist president's He praised the coach who resisted pressure to bar immigrants from the team

sharp words during a Bastille Day press conference were the first public confirmation that Sunday's 5-0 victory over Brazil will have profound political and social consequences in the run-up to next year's European elections.

"A country needs, at certain moments, to come together, around an idea that makes it proud of itself," Mr Chirac said in a television interview before presenting the

national football team to the crowd. "This victory has shown the solidarity, the cohesion... that France had a soul, or more precisely that it was looking for a soul."

As if to prove him right, an estimated 150,000 people attended the annual Bastille Day parade on the Champs-Élysées. Not as many as came to the post-match celebrations but twice the number that showed up last year.

Mr Chirac warned that discussion within moderate right-wing movements of extremist demands for "national preference" (a euphemism for discrimination) was out of place and potentially dangerous.

The 22 members of the national football squad were guests of honour at the Elysée Palace garden party where the coach, Aimé Jacquet, was presented with the Legion of Honour. The symbolism of a side made up of players from differing ethnic and religious backgrounds was seized on by Mr Chirac. Distrust of immigrants was, he said, contrary to France's humanist, democratic and republican principles.

His message was implicitly aimed at supporters of the Gaullist former prime minister Edouard Balladur, who is lobbying for a meeting with the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, to discuss benefits for immigrants who have not yet been granted French citizenship — a fundamental nationalist election theme.

Demand to adopt National Front doctrine has grown



President Chirac with the French football team and their families at yesterday's Bastille Day celebrations at the Elysée. PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-CHRISTOPHE KAHN

since the movement's recent election successes in which it won a share in government with moderate conservative parties in four of France's 22 regions. The alliance has already led to changes in cultural, sporting and educational programmes to suit National Front priorities.

Mr Chirac implied that he was ready to take action to stop a drift towards racist policies by praising the example set by Mr Jacquet, who resisted National Front pressure to exclude recent immigrants from the French team.

Mr Jacquet incarnates all that is best in France; its seriousness, its humanity, its determination to be close to the people... and its tolerance," he said.

"This victory shows solidarity and cohesion. It shows that France has a soul or is searching for one. I hope that after the fiesta we will keep something strong from this national feeling. This tricolour and multi-colour team has given a beautiful image of France and its humanity."

The president, whose enthusiastic support for the side was one of the most striking images of the competition, reflected dominant public sentiment in radio chat shows, street interviews and newspaper letter columns.

No one has publicly raised the question of how long the feeling of racial unity will continue, particularly on football grounds, but the mood has already forced the National Front to drop its call to ban players of foreign extraction.

Mr Le Pen has been ridiculed for playing down the social significance of an event which has concentrated media attention on the integration of the new national heroes. The main focus has been on the French forward Zinedine Zidane, the son of a

'This victory has shown the solidarity, the cohesion... that France had a soul, or more precisely that it was looking for a soul'

President Chirac

'The national and social impact is so strong, collective and extraordinary that women are now involved like any other human beings'

Elisabeth Badinter

Gender lost in translation and sexual politics

John Hooper in Rome

CONFERENCE discussions were always likely to be wide-ranging, but it is a fair bet that few delegates came to Rome expecting to learn about sodomy in Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, the issue arose during one of several exchanges on the thorny issue of gender.

Delegations from various Islamic countries have joined forces to demand the reopen-

ing of parts of the treaty it had been thought were agreed before the conference began. The problem has arisen partly because Arabic does not have a word that equates precisely with gender; it was translated in the Arabic draft as "type of sex".

It was therefore unclear whether parts of the treaty outlawing persecution on grounds of gender might make governments with laws banning homosexual acts liable for prosecution by the proposed court.

Hence the worries of the Azerbaijani delegates about his country's anti-sodomy legislation.

Women's groups say the Muslim delegations have been egged on by representatives from the Holy See. The Vatican has long harboured misgivings about the term "gender", fearing it could be used to replace the distinction between men and women with a five-way division between bisexuals, homosexual men and women, and heterosexual men and women.

A Holy See delegate said its chief representative had not raised the subject at the conference.

The Pope's representatives have, however, openly challenged another proposal that includes in the list of war crimes "forced pregnancy". The Vatican suspects another loaded definition that could later be used to justify abortions. But women's groups protest that they want its inclusion in the treaty only so that countries are covered such as those in Bosnia where women were raped specifically to make them pregnant as a way of altering the country's ethnic balance.

"Our experience is that if you don't enumerate it, it doesn't get prosecuted," said Widney Brown of Human Rights Watch. "The Vatican's representatives are so bent on undermining anyone promoting abortion or gay rights that they are prepared to harm women."

Winnie casts shadow over Mandela birthday

David Barnard in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICA is preparing for the birthday party of the decade when Nelson Mandela turns 80 on Saturday. But as always when the president takes centre stage, attention is being distracted by a squabble in the wings involving his irrepresible former wife, Winnie Mandela.

The latest row relates to her attempt to sue the minister of sport, Steve Tshwete, for describing her as a "wayward charlatan" and an "African populist". The African National Congress leadership is threatening her with disciplinary action if she does not withdraw the case.

Mrs Mandela has been reported to be on the point of resigning from the ANC in protest against Mr Tshwete's attack and efforts by the foreign minister, Alfred Nzo, to have her surrender her diplomatic passport.

Mrs Mandela reacted to the

resignation rumour with an independent statement: "I am the ANC and I will die as the ANC." But it was confirmed that she had sent angry letters to the party's provincial leaders protesting at what she sees as her victimisation.

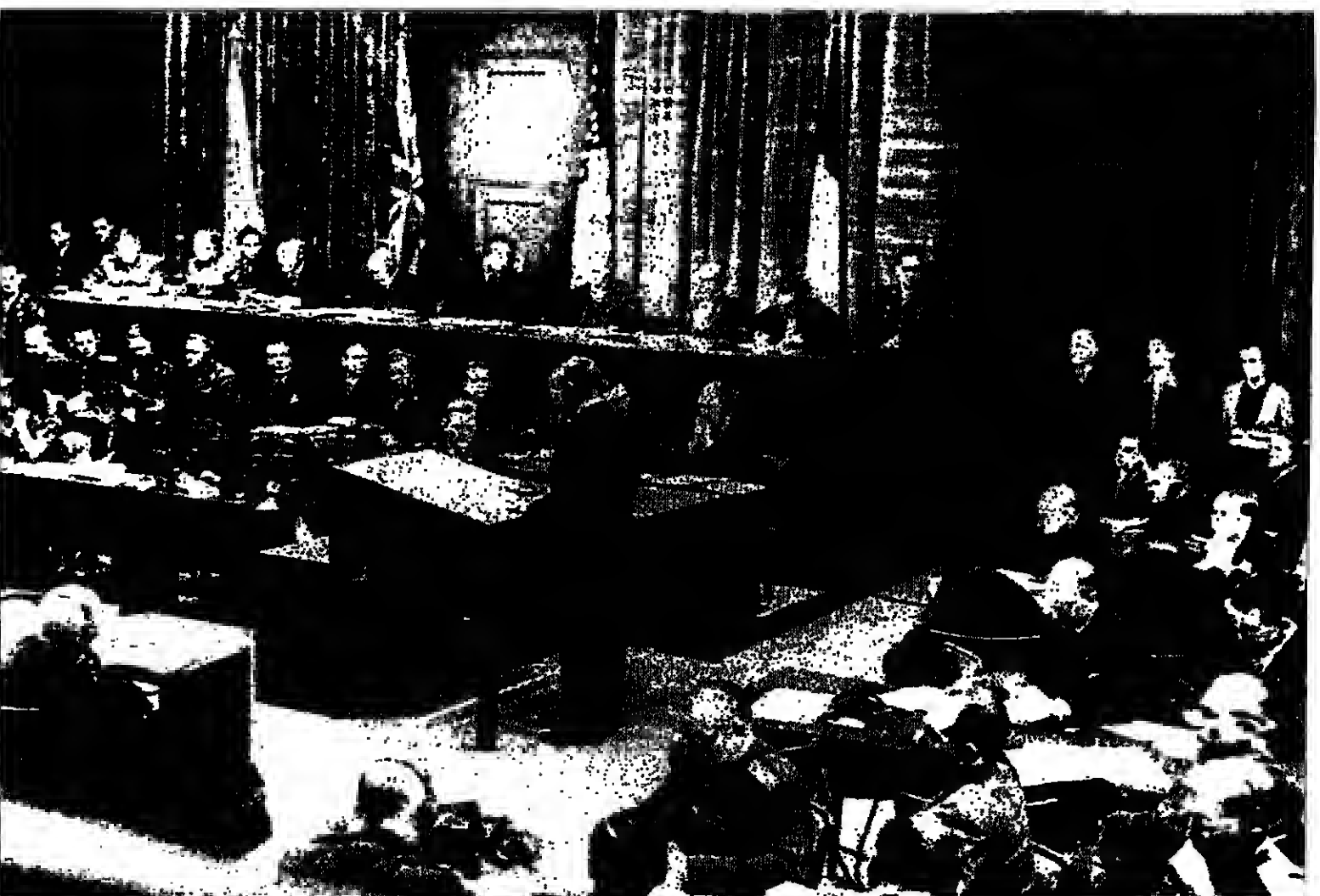
Mr Mandela's birthday is being celebrated with particular enthusiasm this year, because it will be his last in office. He has indicated that he will retire in favour of his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, before next year's general election.

South African society is scrambling to honour the occasion. Mail is being postmarked with a message of congratulations. Businesses are swamping the local press with orders for advertising space to wish him well.

The celebrations will begin on Thursday with a party hosted by the president in the Kruger game reserve, to be attended by 1,400 underprivileged children. On Sunday there will be a banquet outside Johannesburg attended by 2,000 local and international celebrities.

Self-interest brings court into contempt

Cynicism and special pleading are marring attempts to create world justice. John Hooper in Rome and Ian Black report



Judgment at Nuremberg... the trial of 22 German war criminals was one of only ad hoc four courts set up to hear cases of genocide and crimes against humanity — the others were at Tokyo after the second world war, at Arusha and the Hague to judge war crimes in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia

THE conference to set up a new and permanent International Criminal Court (ICC) is scarcely a place for the squeamish. It is not that the talk is routinely of mutilation and extermination, of unimaginable pain and indelible humiliation, but that after more than a month of discussion by able negotiators these nightmarish wrongs have all but faded from view.

With three days to go before the deadline for agreement, the debate in Rome has focused on how to get as broad a consensus as possible by shielding the largest number of states from provisions they find uncomfortable.

Naked, cynical self-interest is as blatantly visible as at any international forum in recent memory. The United States is afraid of a court that could level charges at its soldiers abroad. China is afraid of a court with the power to judge its repression in Tibet.

Other states fear the impact of clauses on a range of issues from the use of inhuman weapons to the eradication of ethnic minorities. And as the clock ticks towards midnight on Friday, they are having less and less difficulty expressing those fears in plain, simple language.

"The bottom line at this conference is that everyone is trying to create a court — for someone else," remarked the International Commission of Jurists' representative, Mona Rishmawi.

Ironicly, the highest single issue in the final stages will be the protection of the perceived interests of the strongest country present. The issue is jurisdiction and the country the United States.

Underlying the US position is a deep-seated horror at the prospect of its citizens being subject to other people's justice. The US's proposal would stop the court trying anyone from a country that had not ratified the treaty. If its proposal is not included, the US is unlikely to ratify because it would be endorsing a court that claimed the right to try US citizens. But if it were included, it would be equally unlikely to ratify because this would grant the court the very right it claimed.

Given the improbability of genuine US backing, it may seem doubly ironic that so much effort should have been spent on trying to meet US objections. But winning global ratification for an international treaty can take decades, and it is hoped that by adjusting as much as possible to US sensitivities the conference can increase the odds of a ratification by Congress in 10 or 20 years' time.

That in turn raises the other key issue: whether, in trying to meet US objections while roping in as many other countries as possible, the states unequivocally in favour of a court might not be sacrificing too much. Some remarkable climbdowns have

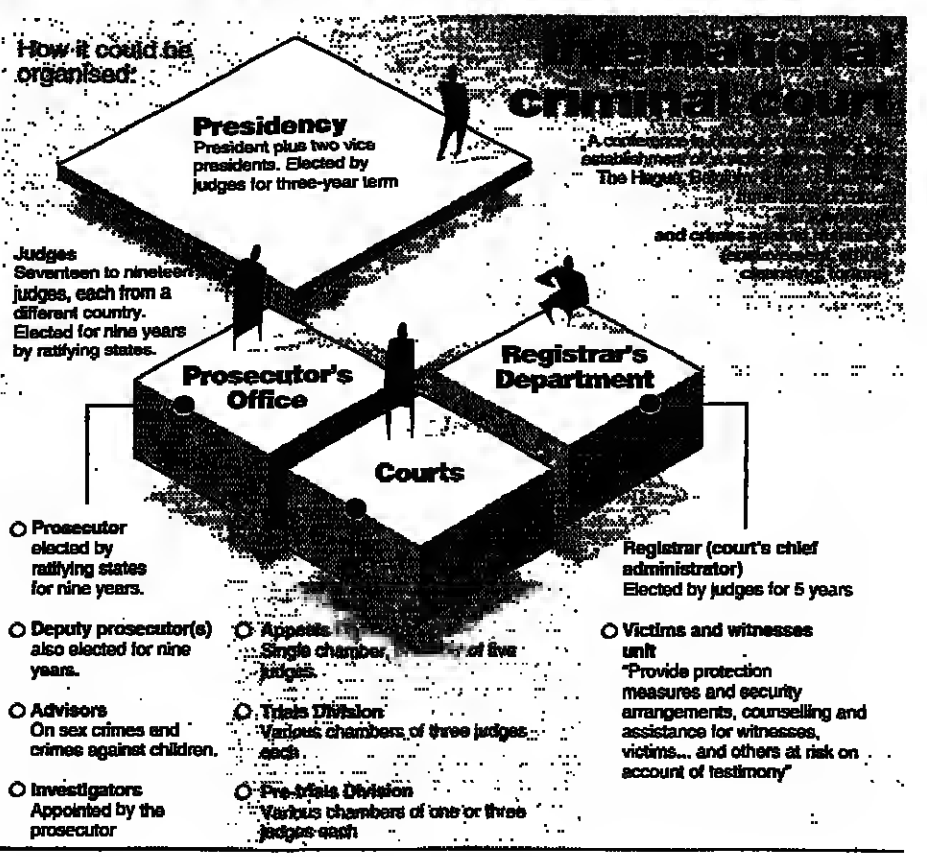
already been made. It is agreed, for example, that the court will accept a soldier's plea that he, or she, was obeying orders — the argument used by Adolf Eichmann. Defence counsel need show only that "the person was under a legal obligation to obey orders of the government or the superior in question... the person did not know that the order was unlawful; and... the order was not manifestly unlawful".

Christopher Hall, a legal adviser to Amnesty International, calls this "a repudiation of Nuremberg, of Tokyo, of the war crimes tribunals for Rwanda and ex-Yugoslavia, and of the International Law Commission's draft code of crimes adopted in 1968". The draft treaty submitted last Friday by the conference chairman, Philippe Kirsch of Canada, has alarmed not only pressure groups such as Amnesty but also many delegates. In particular, it left in a US proposal to let the court try war crimes "only when committed as part of a plan or policy".

Britain, praised at earlier stages for its principled stand, has been criticised for failing to adopt a clear position, especially on the powers of the independent prosecutor, though on Friday Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, urged Madeleine Albright, the US secretary of state, to soften

Washington's hard line. Mr Cook made the ICC a centrepiece of his "ethical foreign policy" but has fallen

foul of suspicions from the Home Office and indifference from Tony Blair. "There were hopes that



Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

At the BBC, distasteful rumours surround the Government's baffling refusal to appoint David Puttnam as the new vice chairman. After he was invited to apply for the post, it is thought that John Birt decided against Lord Puttnam, and put the word around that he was "not intelligent enough" to understand the golden future he himself has planned, and had a word with his close friend and walking companion Mandy Mandelson, who amiably suggested in Downing Street that Puttnam was not to be trusted. Puttnam's name was removed from the short list, and although a furious Chris Smith put it straight back, the damage was done. I find this hard to believe of Birt... almost as hard as the suggestion that he allowed new Labour peer Melvyn Bragg to be sacked from *Start the Week* (crazy so, given that David Mellor, who has a government-appointed football job, presents a football show) out of jealousy. Birt is hardly the kind of man to resent the fact that he left LWT just too soon to qualify for the share options that made Melvyn wealthy. It's not like him.

ISO ennobled recent (for services to the Tory party and the Colombian balance of trade figures) was Tim Bell. The peerage gave no one greater pleasure than the *Diary*. Well, perhaps there was someone after all. "Tim," reads a fax from Washington which he has been proudly sharing with admirers. "Denis and I are thrilled that you are to join the House of Lords. It is really good news and so richly deserved." (How true, how very true. Is there a nobler soul alive today? The old team will be in a mood again! Warm congratulations, Margaret. "The old team in action again... bless the mad old trout, she still knows how to instill the fear of God.")

I AM delighted to see Polly Draper cementing his reputation for journalistic integrity with a *Daily Telegraph* profile of Ed Balls and his highly regarded MP missus Yvette Cooper. Here is one piece of Polly's work that was certainly not cleared in advance with Mandy — perhaps because it was shown to Mr Balls, who (when agreeing to the interview before *Daillygate* broke) demanded and was given full copy approval. The article is headlined "Will this couple make it to Number 10?" and concludes that, yes, indeed they will. Splendid, fearless stuff. Polly may have ditched his chances of political progress, but on this forum a staff job with *Hellio* magazine is his for the asking.

THE race to become Mayor of London attracts a surprise contender. He is Charles Brownson, Her Majesty's most dangerous and fulsome bearded house guest. The official press release Charles sends to announce his candidacy is an engaging montage of images, in which a pig appears in the upper section of an open top double decker bus, while he stands at the centre with Eric on his head. "If you want a strong, loyal and caring mayor, there's only one choice," goes his slogan. "Charles Brownson, the only sane choice." In truth, Charles may not appeal to all (after various unfortunate hostage-taking incidents, the prison governor vote may be beyond him), and current market research shows him trailing Ken Livingstone, and only just ahead of Lord Archer.

REMARKABLE find has been sent to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington by an amateur archaeologist. "Dear Sir, Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labelled 193211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post, Humanoid skull," replies Harvey Rowe, curator of antiquities. "We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago. Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be 'Malibu Barbie'."



The Third Way is staring Labour in the face. But they haven't seen it yet

Jonathan Freedland



WHAT'S the big idea? What's the single, unifying creed that defines the Government? It's the question that unites friends and enemies alike. What, besides this policy or that slogan, does New Labour actually believe in?

Politicians have struggled since May last year to find an answer, searching for the connecting thread of logic that might tie together the various schemes and initiatives pursued by Tony Blair and his ministers. What, then, is the creed that unites welfare-to-work, say, and devotion for Scotland? Why is this Government reforming the House of Lords and privatising the air traffic control system? Some speak of a Third Way — but what does the phrase actually mean?

Those looking for clues spent yesterday poring over Gordon Brown's spending plans. As a three-year blueprint this must be the clearest window yet on the soul of New Labour — authored by the Chancellor, the Government's resident ideas man. And yet, for all its force and internal coherence, Brown's Commons speech still lacked an explicit articulation of the guiding principle which animates this Government. The closest Brown came was "modernisation" — mentioning the word 12 times.

Some regard this as a positive development, a sign that our politics has moved away from the stifling dogma of the past to a more open pragmatism. Now ideology matters less than competence and practicality: what's good is what works. But New Labour should be wary of this brand of Politics

Lite. It's seductive now, while times are good. But when the Government eventually encounters turbulence, most likely in a recession, it will pine for a guiding star of principle. Margaret Thatcher was able to weather the storms of the early 1980s partly because she was lambasted by conviction. Even when her course for the country proved choppy and traumatic, voters stuck with her because they knew where she was going.

New Labour cannot yet say the same. But it might. For the Government could quite easily describe its mission in grand language. It could say it aspires to a revolutionary goal, one which informs every decision it takes: the establishment in Britain of popular sovereignty.

In that single phrase it might capture both its economic and constitutional programme, arguing that both are means to the same end: allowing people to be in charge of their own lives.

That principle would, in an instant, lend coherence to the current ragbag of changes to our political system. Ministers could explain that Scotland is to have its own parliament, Wales and Northern Ireland their assemblies and London its mayor because Whitehall has no business running those places from on high: the Scots, Welsh, Northern Irish and Londoners should be in charge of their own communities.

(The same logic would rule out a second chamber chosen on the nod of the Prime Minister.)

The overhaul of the benefits system could be cast in the same terms. In the past, Labour could say, the poor were to be "looked after" by the well-off, via the mechanism of the state. Now, New Labour could explain, it wants to wean the poor off that dependency. It wants single mothers and the young employed not to be told by government how much they have to spend each week, but to be able to earn their own money. It could argue that there is nothing more liberating than the move from passive recipient to active participant — from hand-out to hand-up — and that even the least privileged have the right to be in charge of their own lives.

COURAGING through that idea would be a new kind of wariness of the state. Of course, New Labour has accepted that in the post-Thatcher era people just won't vote for higher taxes and greater spending.

What New Labour has failed to do is make that case in principled terms of its own. That is a reference to the reference library before it closed.

"Are you still there? I am sorry the head strap fell over my eyes. Yes, it is an interesting device. They are manufactured in Tibet to assist in the pulling of the handcart. They are available, at a small discount, to members of the parliamentary Labour Party. Now I wonder if it is possible to offer you some small service?"

"Oh come, surely there is something? I cannot but notice that the hinges on the front gate was loose and the paint... I see. Well, perhaps you have a pet that requires deworming?" "I see. Well, possibly dry rot or areas of infestation. Carpet mites can be espe-

nothing inherently progressive in constantly expanding the reach of government — that there is a liberation in helping people become masters of their own lives.

Gordon Brown hinted at that left-leaning brand of anti-statism yesterday, explaining that he wanted to spend public money only on those tasks which government alone could perform: chiefly health and education. If the state need not be involved, it shouldn't be, he said. Hence the new batch of privatisations and Labour's urging of business to take on tasks previously left to Whitehall.

What it might amount to is a project which reunites economic liberalism with its political counterpart — free market economics with genuine self-government. If New Labour were to embrace it fully, there would be big steps to take. It would have to junk the nannyism which led it to ban beef-on-the-bone, for example, or reconsider its current indulgence of the monarchy. If the American Revolution of 22 years ago proved, if "we the people" are sovereign, there is no place for an unelected monarch claiming to be sovereign in the same land.

These are big leaps for Labour and the left. But there are useful precedents, both in the land of popular sovereignty — the United States — and in our own, radical past. We don't really need to dream up a Third Way: we've found it already.

Jonathan Freedland is the author of *Bring Home The Revolution: How Britain Can Live The American Dream* (4th Estate)

More like France

Polly Toynbee



GAZING at the magnificence of the gleaming new Stade de France, shimmering, hovering in the night sky, millions of World Cup viewers across the globe admired the glory of what a confident high-spending state can do. The French enjoy the sense of national pride that springs from collective endeavour — elegant TVG railways, the fast and silent metro, the Louvre pyramid, the Bastille opera, nine refurbished city stadiums and a civic infrastructure that made the staging of the World Cup a triumph.

Now we are bidding for the cup in 2006. But what can we offer in comparison, in our present post-Tory state? Imagine the television eye of the world cast into the heart of our major cities as they are now, and wonder whether we might find ourselves cringing at some of the sights — or lack of them. What public services and well-kept public spaces have we to offer for global admiration? Not our seedy and chaotic railways, that's for sure. Not the London underground or public transport elsewhere, nor good roads to compensate (the French have both). Black rubbish bags are a dominant feature of the British urban landscape. True, the Lottery has scattered the country with new arts, museum and heritage projects, soon to open surprising fine sights in unexpected places. But these are no substitute for the things that only a well-run state can do.

The French spend 50 per cent of GDP, we only spend 40 per cent — and everywhere in both countries that difference hits you in the eye. We have lost our own tradition of pride in collective spending for the public good. We lost it under the last Labour government: anyone watching Tuesday night's Channel 4 documentary on the 1979 winter of discontent will have been reminded how trust in government spending died among the unbored bodies and hospital workers barring the doors to patients. It paved the way to 18 years of extolling everything private, denigrating everything public.

Two decades of civic neglect take a lot of catching up — not just in infrastructure, but crucially in public attitudes. A generation reared on the mantra that all spending is sin needs to have its eyes opened to the good that wise public spending can do. So yesterday marked this Government's first giant step on the long road towards building that trust and enthusiasm. "Step by step making Britain better and stronger," said the Chancellor. Just so.

THIS is neither a socialist nor an instinctively radical Government — but it is progressive. It believes the state, well-managed, can get things done. It breathes confidence in its own ability to force efficiency and effectiveness out of every penny spent — and demonstrates it to an erstwhile disbelieving nation. Seeing is believing, and there's no doubt that in this first leap forward the emphasis is mainly (not, to give due credit, not entirely) on the most visible forms of spending — bright things for all to admire. The country must look and feel better. People must see the public sector not as the usual seedy, peeling fourth-rate worst, but as the best there is. Pride in public services will only come when a GP surgery or a bus across the city feels as modern and keen to please as a travel agent or restaurant.

That's why new and refurbished hospitals feature strongly, with a customer-friendly computerised appointment systems and quality league tables for all to read. In education, priority goes to renewing 6,000 school buildings fallen into shameful disrepair. How can pupils feel education is precious if any fast-food restaurant seems

better equipped? How can high-calibre people be persuaded to teach in premises no one has cared about for decades? If public transport is a disgrace, that's not surprising: it was cut by 25 per cent by the last government. Now it's to get 5 per cent more each year, with 150 integrated transport schemes nationwide.

But there is some bravery too. Not everything will be popular. Poor pensioners are deservedly big winners — up 13 per cent, with a new minimum pension guarantee. What that means is something that will not please Barbara Castle, but is the right thing to do. Expect all future money to be targeted on the poorest, with a new delivery system to make sure they get it, while the universal principle is progressively weakened. Taking child benefit from better-off 16-18-year-olds is brave but right, targeting the money on far bigger maintenance allowances for poor children staying on at school. (Wise, this will be piloted first to prove it works as an incentive to stay on.) And there is more money for overseas aid, hardly something there's a public clamour for.

As for social programmes, there has never been such a good package of projects designed to delve into the causes of poverty. Sure Start, echoing the old US Head Start programme, aims to catch all the 3-5-year-olds in the 250 most badly-passed areas, bringing mothers and toddlers from birth into a network of family centres offering health, emotional and early education help. A new deal for communities will offer human regeneration schemes, to match the existing (and extra) single regeneration budget programmes on the worst estates, creating public jobs and



Extra money is the only carrot that forces people to co-operate

training as part of rebuilding bad housing.

OK, cynics may say they've seen it all before. Labour governments have tried these things in one form or another years ago. Some of us remember all kinds of optimistic acronym for long-gone, semi-failed schemes. But this time the Government has set out with a fiercer determination than ever to tackle the fiendish problem of getting competing budgets on the ground to work together, instead of against one another. It would be remarkable if all these things worked everywhere. But this time Labour has a firmer grip over local authority and local health spending. Extra money is the only carrot that forces people to co-operate. This time these programmes will be tightly monitored and evaluated. If something doesn't work, they'll try something else. And again, and again, until it does.

Is it enough money? It's plenty to be going on with. It will make a huge difference to all those things the Government really cares about. And most important of all, the public will see all around them the fruits of that money. So if, by some miracle, we were to win the bid for the 2006 World Cup, there is every chance, (barring catastrophic recession), that we shall by then look a little more like France and a little less like the flat-sam left in the wake of Mrs Thatcher.

I thought I was just a barrister and Labour MP for Medway. Silly me

I am a toolbox

Robert Marshall-Andrews

I HAVE a contract. I got it last month. It was drafted by a minor literary genius in Labour Party Headquarters at Millbank Tower in order to regulate my activities as an MP between now and the next election. With a fine sense of metaphor, the contract refers to itself as a "toolbox". Now in 30 years as a lawyer dabbling at the edge of commercial jurisprudence I have never seen a contract which is also a toolbox. Intrigued, I read on and it all became clear, as you will see.

Most services, however small, take at least five minutes to complete to a high standard. No doubt you will appreciate that I need to start early. In fact I hardly start at all. It is a matter of continuous process. Yes, it is hard from time to time.

"What is this? Oh, this is my toolbox. I appreciate it looks more like a small handcart, but I must be prepared to carry out a vast range of services. The trailer behind the handcart is a reference library. Indeed it was the reference library before it closed.

"Are you still there? I am sorry the head strap fell over my eyes. Yes, it is an interesting device. They are manufactured in Tibet to assist in the pulling of the handcart. They are available, at a small discount, to members of the parliamentary Labour Party. Now I wonder if it is possible to offer you some small service?"

"Oh come, surely there is something? I cannot but notice that the hinges on the front gate was loose and the paint... I see. Well, perhaps you have a pet that requires deworming?" "I see. Well, possibly dry rot or areas of infestation. Carpet mites can be espe-

cially hard to detect for the untrained eye. Compost? I happen to have a bag of high-nitrate horse-dung in the toolbox, well-rotted, brilliant for azaleas. Hedge clipping? Re-grouting? Sign... What? Pension? Your pension? No, I'm afraid that's a matter for parliament, you know, those johnnies up in Westminster.

"No, no, I'm afraid you have got that quite wrong, but don't worry, it's a really common error. It's what we call the old politics. Just think for a moment: if I were up there mucking about in parliament I couldn't be down here looking at your U-bend now could I? And besides, it would be terribly irritating for the Government."

Guar

Brown's blockbus

Waters to the Ed

T

Blood Or

The Guardian
Wednesday July 15 1998
Edition Number 47229
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Tel No: 0171-278 2332
Fax No: 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Brown's blockbuster

It's a stunning statement

GORDON BROWN appeared to have pulled off the impossible yesterday. He promised sharply increased spending on education and health of socialist proportions yet within a tight fiscal framework that would be the envy of any sound-money Tory. He is planning to raise education spending by an unexpectedly large 5.1 per cent a year over the next three years (in real terms) compared with an average of 1.4 per cent a year during the 18 years of the last government. It may look less impressive averaged over the whole of this parliament (including the first two years of near-freeze) but it is real money nevertheless. And it will have been achieved without any of the increases in income taxes which many critics said were needed.

Spending will be front-end loaded, starting at \$3 billion more next year leading to \$10 billion in the third year, creating what could be the country's first pre-electoral boom based on education spending as opposed to excessive consumption. No one can now doubt what Labour meant by "education, education, education" — even if teachers would be wise not to expect much of the surplus to spill over into higher wages. The Chancellor is planning a similar 4.7 per cent rise in health spending over the next three years compared with 2.5 per cent a year during the last parliament. Extra spending is being tied to performance so it doesn't leak out into what are regarded as less desirable objectives (including inflation-

busting pay settlements). What is more, this increase in spending is taking place against predictions — validated by the National Audit Office — of a steadily growing budget surplus totalling \$30 billion over the three years. In cash terms, this is bigger than the freak surpluses produced by an overheated economy at the end of the 1980s.

Where's the catch? The sharp increase in priority spending is at the cost of cut backs in such other sectors as defence, agriculture, trade and industry where the squeals won't be loud enough to be heard. This will achieve an overall growth in current spending (everything except capital expenditure) of 2.25 per cent a year, roughly in line with the hoped-for growth of the whole economy. This is unlikely to scare the City which will be very impressed by the looming budget surplus after so many years of deficit. Of course, these plans could fall apart if the economy slides into a recession during the next few years. This could happen if the succession of interest hikes, associated with the overvalued pound, turns the planned slowdown into something more sinister. Yesterday's improvement in inflation suggests the Bank of England may have erred in the direction of overkill. But the Treasury insists that these projections have been based on the expected slowdown in economic growth — flagged in the Budget — to 1.5 to 2 per cent next year and 2.25 to 2.75 per cent the following year.

There are two other potential weaknesses. Gordon Brown may be hard pushed to keep the lid on public sector pay, which is rising at only 2.5 per cent compared with 5.9 per cent in the private sector. It will take all the Chancellor's guile to target some extra resources into priority areas (such as scarce teachers) while preventing industrial unrest among other disgruntled public sector employees. Mr Brown's plans could also run

into trouble if hospitals, schools and other institutions fail to agree to the improved performance criteria the Chancellor is insisting on as a *quid pro quo* for extra cash. In that event, will he really withhold the money? We shall see. These reservations apart, Mr Brown has delivered an extremely impressive Comprehensive Spending Review which appears to fulfill nearly all of the high targets he set himself.

Even the most optimistic social policy experts were rubbing their eyes in disbelief yesterday at the Government's unexpected generosity. This month's promise from the Prime Minister at the 50th birthday party of the National Health Service for sustainable year on year real increases was fully realised. The 4.7 per cent real increase over each of the next three years in England will compensate for the squeeze over the last two years pulling up the average for this parliament to 3.7 per cent compared to the 2.5 per cent over the last parliament.

The extra money for education will mean more money for pre-school children, nursery school children and further education institutions which with sixth form colleges now account for 60 per cent of our 16- to 19-year-olds in education. The new money has come just in time with two-thirds of FE colleges in debt. It will also make it easier for ministers to meet their target in reducing class sizes in primary schools.

Almost equally important is the way the new increases will help the less well off. Further education will begin to address the Kennedy Committee's proposals for improving access to disadvantaged young people. A new joint health and education programme for families with children under three in need of support will be launched today. The expansion of nursery education will be targeted towards the less well off and the increase in school budgets will help them

deal with disaffected teenagers reducing the numbers at risk of social exclusion.

On both pensions and child benefits the Chancellor signalled his readiness to look after the poorest. There will be a minimum income guarantee, ensuring the two million poorest pensioners on income support get increases not just above prices but also earnings: \$2.5 billion in the next three years. And the Chancellor has rightly refused to drop his plan to introduce maintenance grants for poor sixth formers. The aim is to encourage children from low income families to stay on in education. There will be pilot schemes to test the effects of such grants. If they succeed, child benefit for children aged 16 and over will be redistributed from the better off to the poor.

There will be those in Old Labour who will undoubtedly criticise the Chancellor for daring to plan for a big budget surplus when there are still desperate needs to be fulfilled. But most people will be stunned by the deft way he is combining high spending in key areas with help for the poor and a budget surplus. Announcements like these often look different a day or two later when the documents have been studied more carefully. But if Treasury claims that there are no "smoking guns" turns out to be true, yesterday's statement could turn out to be a defining moment for New Labour — and for Gordon Brown as well.

ing the court is trying to reach agreement, notes of a bizarre warning were being circulated. These purport to reflect a recent conversation between US Defence Secretary William Cohen and his German opposite number, Volker Rühe. Unless the Clinton administration has its way on the terms of the new court, Mr Cohen warned, Washington would have to reconsider its "commitment of forces to Europe".

There was a time when such a threat would have been greeted with cheers by those who regarded the US as beighting rather than lessening cold war tensions — not to mention the "other side". But in the psycho-culture of the post-cold war era, US military commitment to Europe is regarded as essential. This has been demonstrated in Bosnia and may yet again be shown in and around Kosovo. The East European countries clamouring to join Nato also seek the re-assurance of a US connection.

Washington rejects any formula which would give the new court global jurisdiction and allow it to try accused war criminals whether or not their home state consents. This is a miserable position to maintain, and it lines up the US with Iran, Syria and China. It means, for example, that Belgrade and the Bosnian Serbs could block indefinitely the prosecution for war crimes of Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. It is hard to tell whether the US really believes that its forces in Europe might be accused of committing war crimes: if it does, that is another sort of problem. The usual excuse of congressional opposition is being cited. But if the US does opt out, then the court will be reduced to impotence. In an age that has bred Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein, and a host of other violators of human rights, the world's only superpower cannot just walk off the pitch. This is an ethical game which everyone must play.

Letters to the Editor

Why gentlemen prefer bald

CAN your anonymous source (four of truth, July 6) be suffering from a severe case of sour grapes when claiming ITV's new consumer series is "not doing very well"? The programme, *We Can Work It Out*, made by Yorkshire Television, has a list of journalistic scops to its credit. With audiences of more than eight million, its last two programmes have been in the TV Top 40 — a brilliant performance for a new factual show. Steve Anderson, Controller, News & Current Affairs, ITV.

CHRIS Bell's explanation of the supposed preference for blonde hair (Letters, July 13) doesn't stand up to scrutiny. Surely in "evolutionary terms", bald females ought to be having the most fun? Jim Buck, Sheffield.

I spot the most obvious reason why gentlemen prefer blondes that they're easier to find in the dark? Elliott Bignell, Basel, Switzerland.

A CORRESPONDENT suggested Gay Pride on the Garvaghy Road (Letters, July 14). Surely the costumes wouldn't be the bizarre enough? Les Stennett, Preston.

THE Fifth official struck by the number of instances of players pulling each other's shirts in France (Pfs to collar shirt-pullers, July 13) could solve this problem by making the shirts tighter and the shorts shorter. Campaign for the return of shorter shorts. Susan Banton, London.

The Country Diary is on Page 10

Those other British isles

WHAT a shame the natives of these shores won't have reciprocal rights to settle on the "uninhabited" British Indian Ocean Territory (Last out-crope of empire brought into the fold, July 14). I quite fancy a tropical paradise on a dependent territory where no one lives. Could we not use the islands for new homes instead of England's green belt? Or is "uninhabited" a bit wide of the mark? There are quite a few web sites and telephone facilities on one of the islands, Diego Garcia. And I suppose that, for the Home Office to allow people to go to Diego Garcia, they'd have to evict the huge American naval base. But we wouldn't have to worry about the Ilois people, packed off to Mauritius in the 1960s and 70s by previous British governments. They didn't want to go

so, eventually, in 1982, they were paid \$34 million compensation, partly to preclude them from returning. So that's all right then.

Naturally, I'd like to view the place before taking out a mortgage. What time is the next B-32 flight to the territory? David Frybus, Peterborough.

IT MAY well be that the winning argument for granting 100,000 new British passports was the fact that very few people would take up citizenship in the UK from British Dependent Territories.

But the decision to grant passports is important and deeply symbolic, against the backdrop of strongly held views within the ethnic minority communities in the UK, that Gibraltar and the Falklands were treated so differ-

ently from other British Dependent Territories. The Government is to be congratulated for taking this important step when many of us believe that there has been so much unfairness over the years in British nationality policy. Claude Moraes, Director, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

WHILE I agree in principle with giving full British citizenship to residents of the islands of the empire, I find it hard to accept that it will not be reciprocated. It appears we have gone from one form of apartheid to another. Not that I would like to live in the Atlantic Alcatraz of St Helena, but I would like to have the choice. Gregory Edleston, London.

Our pride in our gay son

I WAS surprised by the selfish attitudes expressed by the parents quoted in your article about the support group for parents of lesbians and gays (I'm gay, mum, Society, July 8). How can these parents be supportive to their children when they are so wrapped up in their own misery?

Surely they realise that the child who has come out is the same one they loved before they knew they were homosexual? Nothing about their child has changed because of their disclosure. They will have a tough enough life in a predominantly straight, homophobic society without having to endure the agonies of their selfish parents.

I am ashamed to admit that I have avoided telling some people about our son is gay, but only because I felt that it

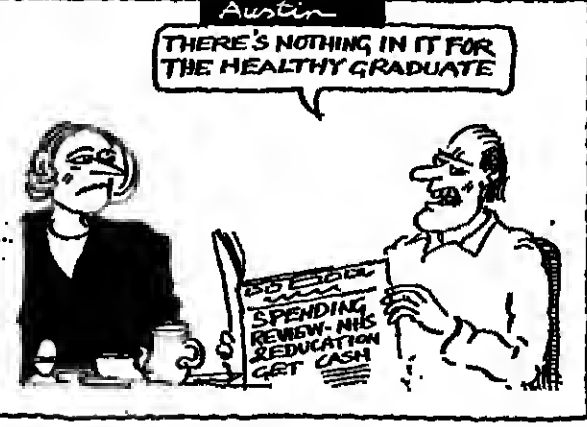
would embarrass them after they have made homophobic remarks. But no more. In future I shall tell them what I think of their comments and why. If there are some people who can't accept us as parents of a gay son, then that's their problem and their loss.

Our son came out to us while he was away at art college; he wrote us a beautiful letter explaining his feelings and we were grateful that he felt that he could confide in us. Nothing has changed in our relationship with our son. We love him and are very proud of him and his achievements.

I hope the people quoted in your article can eventually accept their children for what they are and start enjoying their relationships again. Valerie Mayes, Newton Abbot, Devon.

AS A LESBIAN and a parent, I read the article with growing concern and anger. It implied that finding out that your son or daughter is gay is not only distressing but disastrous and inevitably traumatic. It was likened to coping with "a serious or terminal illness". It also implied that it means an absence of grandchildren. But many lesbians and gay men have children, and the same kind of life as any other family.

It is the heterosexist assumptions and expectations of many within our society that cause us difficulties, and reinforce prejudice. I was relieved that my daughter is as yet too young to pick up a paper and read it independently. I would not have wanted her to be subjected to newspaper coverage which implied many potentially damaging messages about our lives. Name and address supplied.



Mr Livingstone, you presumed

OH Mr Livingstone! The name of the election changes but the rhetoric stays the same (Letters, July 11). If you want it to be the members' choice, stop patronising us. Ken, and let us vote for whom we want — even if it is someone who wants, unlike you it seems, to work in partnership with the Government, rather than against it. Simon Jenkinson, University of East Anglia.

DESPITE what Liz Davies may say (Letters, July 11), Steve Bassam is right to argue that the Labour Party National Executive must re-

resent ordinary party members.

The majority of Labour Party members wants a Labour Government to live a long and successful life. Ms Davies and her cronies would sooner strangle it in infancy. Neither the hard left nor the old right should be allowed to gloat at the thought of inter-caste warfare which benefits no one but the Tories. I only hope we learn the bitter lessons of history. If that means leaving the old factions behind then so be it. Jacqueline Blunden, Christchurch, Dorset.

Not related

YOU are right about David Puttnam and about what he could have done for the BBC (Leader, July 14), but you are wrong about Gail Rebuck. Gail is not responsible for, or necessarily a part of, her husband's political connections. She is a brilliant business woman and manager, that's true, but her record of working with some of the most individual and creative publishing imprints and editors in the

business should make it clear that she's much else besides. Why does the Guardian think she would get the BBC job because of her husband? Where is the line of thinking going? With a Guardian file on every talented wife in the land? Carmen Callil, London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full address. We may edit letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

Country goes to town to dispel sex and drugs image

LINDA Grant must have had a recent wet weekend in Cornwall with someone she didn't like (Kids in the countryside smoke a lot of dope and screw around because drugs and sex are all there is to do, July 14). Here in the south west, we have some of the best entertainment around in the summer. Big festivals like Glastonbury are well known but there are some other brilliant weekends on offer at Sidmouth and St Ives. If Grant went to Newquay, she would have found hordes of happy, healthy teenagers in the surf having "good, clean fun" and some pretty cool shops.

She does have a point that there are not the facilities to offer great variety to adolescents. There are fewer jobs on offer. It is often virtually impossible to get to an evening class at the local college. Public transport around here largely stops at 6.30pm. Because fewer people live here,

less money is available to provide anything for teenagers to do. Lottery funding favours urban areas. Local authorities in rural areas struggle to provide but the paucity of their population is not sufficiently recognised by Government funding formulas. Sue Miller, Yeovil, Somerset.

LINDA Grant's remarks do not add to the debate about rural deprivation. Stating the obvious — there is a drug problem in the country — does not qualify as journalism. Offering considered and practical solutions does. Ian Saltern, London.

SURELY city dwellers are guilty of "sleeping with their sisters" and have "quaint customs of animal abuse" too. Or would such a suggestion be insulting? Bernard Conning, Holywell Green, Halifax.

Adopt a Cub

and help WSPA save bears from cruelty.

Guler was found wandering the streets of Istanbul. Hunters probably shot her mother so Guler could be taught to "dance" for tourists. With her brother Erol, she's now safe at WSPA's bear sanctuary. You can help keep these cubs safe by adopting them as a gift. For £15 we'll send an adoption certificate, two photos of the cubs and their story. For £25 you'll get all these, plus a video of the cubs playing. Please help WSPA protect bears worldwide.

I want to adopt Erol and Guler
Please return this form to the address below.

Your name _____
Your address _____
Postcode _____

Date of birth (if under 18) _____
If you are adopting a cub as a gift for a friend or a relation, and want their name on the certificate, please write their name here: _____

I want to adopt Erol and Guler for
☐ £15 (for an adoption certificate, 2 photos and the cubs' story)
☐ £25 (for all the above plus a video of the cubs)
(Please make your cheque payable to WSPA or fill in your credit card details below.)

Visa / MasterCard / Switch / Eurocard / CAF CharityCard / Amex
(Please circle the card you are using)

Card No. _____
(If paying by Switch, use the number printed across the middle of your card)

Expiry date _____ Switch issue no. _____

Today's date _____

Signature _____

Please send this completed form and your donation to: WSPA, Dept. AL590, 2 Langley Lane, London SW6 7T4. THANK YOU. Reg Charity No. 282598

OR CALL 0800 616 919 **WSPA**
Wild Society for the Protection of Animals

Blood Orange



THE way the Orange Order insist that they only want to uphold an annual "tradition" makes them sound like these people who go to the same bed and breakfast every year on holiday. Maybe it's true that on their parades they say to each other: "We've been coming here for 26 years, wouldn't dream of going anywhere else. And we always shout abuse at the same family. Suck to what you like, I say."

The "tradition" argument is a weak attempt to obscure the only possible explanation for the marches: humiliation. How can the marches be an important part of the Protestant culture or religion? Was the reason that Henry VIII broke from Rome that he wanted to bang a huge drum while wearing a bowler hat, but the Pope wouldn't let him?

And the idea that it's the flamboyant banners and colours which make them an attraction is as daft as someone exclaiming their past behaviour by saying: "I wasn't interested in the politics. I just took part because the shirts were a soothing shade of brown."

Besides, if intimidation isn't the reason for marching, why is it so important that the route passes through Catholic areas? Unless the local Tourist Board brochure says: "The Garvaghy Road is best known for its wonderful panoramic views. From the

post box half way down you can enjoy a breathtaking landscape which goes from one end of Drumcree shopping centre to the other. Well worth a visit, even if for some reason you have to camp at one end for a fortnight before getting the chance."

Nor is it a celebration of "community", as if the parades are like a village fête. Unless they're advertised with posters in the local pub, saying "Come to Ye Olde King Billy Fayre. Knock a Catholic out of their home and win a goldfish. Three goes a pound. Delicious scones baked by Mrs Paisley."

But the Orange Order's desire to humiliate isn't just a result of bigoted madness. It's been cultivated for 200 years by the British. For example Tory leader Bonar Law told Unionists in 1912: "There is no length of resistance to which Ulster can go in which I would not be prepared to support you". In 1921 the Orange Order was granted con-

trol of the new Northern Ireland.

Between then and 1969 there were only three Northern Irish cabinet ministers who were not members of the Orange Order. By 1948, 597 out of 694 civil servants were members. How did they manage that? Perhaps the advert for Civil Service posts said: "Applicants should have some knowledge of filing and typing, and will require experience in walking and drum-banging at the same time."

Though they can't have got much work done, as the 597 probably spent most of their day stomping over the desks of the other 37 and tipping off their stationery.

THE Orange Order play had a logic. While the Order could secure a job and a council flat, most Protestants felt they had an interest in supporting their Unionist leaders. Workers would march alongside their managers in displays of

cross-class camaraderie. The result was that strikes were a third as likely as in Britain, and the Northern Ireland TUC wasn't recognised until 1964.

The civil rights campaign, direct rule and the decline in industry have diminished the power of the Orange Order, who have just one thing left to remind them of their past glory: the marches. So the most Protestants supported the peace deal, 94 per cent of the Orange Order opposed it. So peace depends on getting the majority of Protestants who now distrust the Orange Order to openly oppose it.

Next year the Parades Commission could help this process by taking into consideration the Orange Order's fondness for staying out all night in sleeping bags, and rerouting their parades to Glastonbury. After a day or two they might come up with: *We saw 10,000 hippies Go down all a shove Go now 10,000 hippies Are lying in the mud.*

And this is the culture that's worth celebrating with thousands of marches, even if you have to camp out for a week or two to start with.

Which is why pleas for nationalists to "learn to live with" the marches are misguided. Learning to live with the Orange Order is very different from learning to live with Protestants. Whereas most Protestants supported the peace deal, 94 per cent of the Orange Order opposed it. So peace depends on getting the majority of Protestants who now distrust the Orange Order to openly oppose it.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Courtesies of the House

THE HOUSE of Commons likes its gladiators. In the 1950s, it was well served by Richard Crossman for Labour and for the Conservatives by John Boyd-Carpenter, who has died aged 90. Both had sharp minds and a taste for controversy. They battled over the pensions legislation introduced by Boyd-Carpenter. Together they elevated the subject into high political drama. The Guardian's Norman Shrapnell, arguably the most acute commentator of his day, judged Boyd-Carpenter as "word perfect, aggressively courteous".

Throughout his 27 years in the Commons — on back or frontbench, in government or opposition — he maintained these qualities. To Crossman, the liberal leader, thought it was a fine exposition of Oxford oratory. That was a mild description of a pugnacious debater; nonetheless, Boyd-Carpenter did not bear grudges and accepted the disappointment of politics without sulks.

He was born to a political family, his father having served in the Commons, later representing Coventry, and his grandfather having been a distinguished Bishop of Ripon. Education at Stowe was followed by Balliol College, Oxford, and eventually the Middle Temple in 1934. He had shown an early appetite for politics, becoming president of the Oxford Union and a huckster candidate for the Limehouse constituency of the London County Council.

He had barely begun his legal career before the onset of the second world war. Enlistment in the Scots Guards was followed by service in the legal branch of the Armed Forces. He was in Italy, he had the daunting task of dispensing justice, including capital punishment; it was a task he carried out with a sense of duty. He left the Army to fight the 1945 general election in Kingston-upon-Thames, a seat that he served conscientiously until 1972.

The post-war parliament was tailored for Boyd-Carpenter. The general election had decimated Tory ranks and many survivors were elderly and disinclined for hand-to-hand battle. The new member for Kingston was determined to fight aggressively and use every procedural tactic. He helped create a disciplined and successful opposition which culminated in the determined, and almost legendary, battle over gas nationalisation.

In 1951 Churchill made Boyd-Carpenter financial secretary to the Treasury, a congenial step on the ministerial ladder. He much admired his Chancellor, R. A. (Rab) Butler, and approved of the policy of restrained public spending and cuts in direct taxation. He enjoyed battling over the minutiae of policy and the rule of Treasury executioner, ruthlessly observing: "No one can apply the axe to public spending without sulking." Years later, he was to compare the Rab chancellorship with the early Thatcher years.

In 1954 Boyd-Carpenter was promoted to minister of transport and civil aviation. Although he held this office relatively briefly, he was able to announce the planned motorway programme in February, 1955. It is customary to judge Boyd-Carpenter as on the Tory right in many instances that view was true but he was agnostic rather than radical in matters such as public ownership — as his handling of the transport industries and the nationalised British road services demonstrated.

In 1955, Boyd-Carpenter became minister of pensions and national insurance, a post he held for seven years. He had doubts about Anthony Eden, now his prime minister, which initially related to domestic politics and his judgment of economic and

social affairs. This concern soon embraced foreign affairs, Eden's supposed speciality. Boyd-Carpenter was strongly opposed to the Suez venture from a liberal viewpoint — and seriously considered resigning.

Happily he decided otherwise, and concentrated on a major reform of national insurance retirement pensions which proved to be greatly significant, not so much for its immediate impact as for the principle it established, and the political consensus it eventually provided.

Boyd-Carpenter decided to end the Beveridge flat-rate contribution/benefit principle and to have a wage-related contribution and benefit. This in turn encouraged the growth of private sector pensions and with tax incentives, stimulated a growth in occupational pension schemes that gave Britain an advantage over her continental partners, whose pensions were dominated by taxpayer finance. The debate was argued ahead of the 1959 general election with Boyd-Carpenter and Crossman as well-matched adversaries. The former's mastery of detail and nose for politics enabled the Conservatives to take and hold the initiative in this aspect of social policy.

Boyd-Carpenter was a beneficiary of Macmillan's major Cabinet reshuffle in the summer of 1962. He entered the Cabinet as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, although it seems extraordinary that he had been taking major decisions for so long as a non-Cabinet minister. His Chancellor,

Boyd-Carpenter was a pugnacious debater; he did not bear grudges and accepted the disappointments of politics without sulks. As a minister and a committee chairman, he contributed personal charm coupled with incisive judgment

Reginald Maudling, had the remit of relaxing the policy of his predecessor, Selwyn Lloyd. This it is hardly surprising that Boyd-Carpenter was not a reincarnation of the financial secretary that had served Rab a decade earlier.

Maudling was a congenial and worldly companion. They argued whether the income tax reductions should fall on allowances or rates, Boyd-Carpenter favouring the latter. By contrast, Boyd-Carpenter found Edward Heath unbending, and believed his intransigence over the abolition of retail price maintenance was a crucial vote-killer in the 1964 general election. This difference of opinion and of temperament was to count against him when Heath became party leader.

After the 1964 general election defeat, Boyd-Carpenter was shadow housing spokesman, marking the ministerial office now held by his old adversary, Crossman. It was a short-lived affair. After the 1966 election, Heath — now Conservative leader — retired him to the backbenches, where he remained for the rest of his Commons life. He bore disappointment with great philosophy, but it was a harsh blow.

However, Boyd-Carpenter

showed himself to be a superb gaffer in the 1966 parliament. Many Tories were irked that his talents were confined to the backbenches, and from within the 1922 Committee there were appeals that he should be installed as shadow leader of the House. Such requests were in vain, but all was not lost. The freedom of the backbenches enabled him to become one of those who scuppered the Wilson plan to reform the House of Lords.

This demolition task is usually credited to Michael Foot and Enoch Powell. They certainly played a major and romantic role, but it was never a two-man band. Boyd-Carpenter and Robert Sheldon used their procedural skills to great effect, and the former would have gained satisfaction by frustrating the then leader of the House, his old sparring partner Richard Crossman.

At this time, Boyd-Carpenter was also confirming the reputation of the public accounts committee, then handling aircraft procurement and higher education, some of the most delicate matters of public spending. As chairman, he contributed personal charm coupled with incisive and political judgment. With such distinguished auditors-general as Sir Edmund Compton and Sir Bruce Fraser, he added to the authority of the committee and its support for the House of Commons.

It was a quality that did not secure for him the Speakership in 1970 on the retirement of Horace King. The contest produced two candidates of powerful ex-ministerial calibre, Selwyn Lloyd and Boyd-Carpenter. The latter had been approached by backbenchers, but unlike subsequent conventions — the decision was largely in the hands of the "usual channel" frontbenchers. It was widely believed that the Labour frontbenchers had a strong preference for Selwyn Lloyd, who, in the event, turned out to be an effective Speaker.

The decision was a disappointment for Boyd-Carpenter. Possibly it reflected a judgment years earlier by Norman Shrapnell: "He does not endear himself to the Opposition. He does not try to." Once again, Boyd-Carpenter did not nurse a grievance, but he decided an end had come to his Commons days.

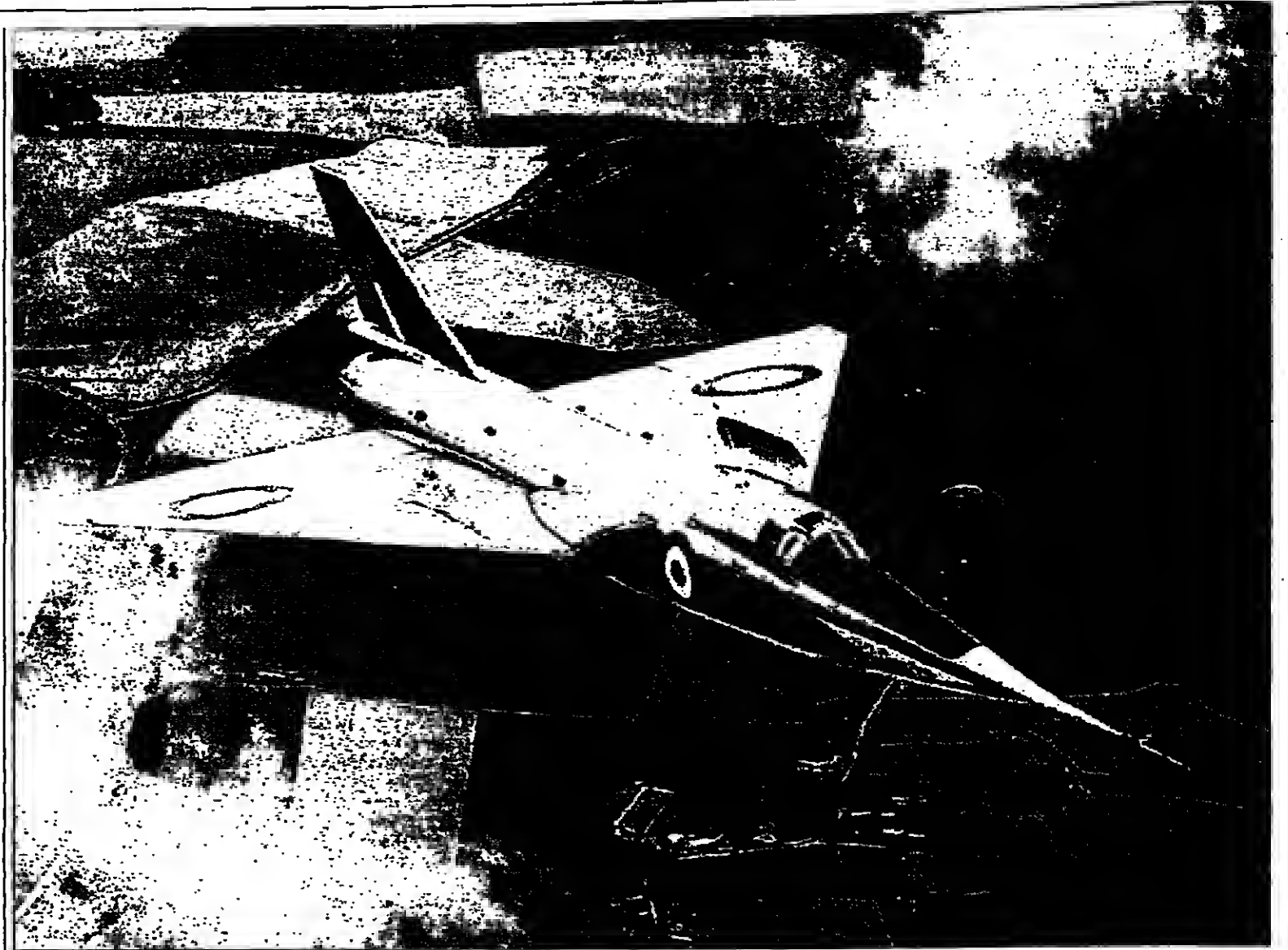
He then proceeded to an Indian summer of business activities. In 1971, the Civil Aviation Authority had been created, bringing under one heading air traffic control, licensing and safety. Boyd-Carpenter became its first chairman and effectively pursued his entrepreneurial and regulatory tasks. The authority was a hybrid statutory body retaining a close link with Whitehall. He had an early sympathy with those, like Freddie Laker, who wanted to liberalise airline traffic.

He also took a number of business appointments, the most important of which was chairmanship of Associated Rugby Portland Cement, where he was a liberal successor to the autocratic Sir Halford Reddish. Meanwhile, Boyd-Carpenter had been invited to the House of Lords in 1971. Despite his business career, he was an assiduous attendee and frequent contributor to the upper chamber.

He married Margaret (Molly) Hall in 1937 and they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1997. She survives him, together with a son and two daughters. The younger, Baroness Hoag, was head of John Major's policy unit during his first five years in Number 10.

John Biffen

John Archibald Boyd-Carpenter, politician, born June 2, 1908; died July 11, 1998



Reach for the sky... Lickley worked on the supersonic Fairchild Delta FD2 with the 'droop snoot' nose later used on Concorde

QUADRANT PICTURE LIBRARY

Sir Robert Lickley

The perfection of aircraft

SIR ROBERT Lickley, who has died aged 86, was probably the last of a generation of engineers who actually sat down and designed aeroplanes. Today's aircraft are visualised, designed, drawn and even flight-tested with computers before a piece of metal is cut. When Lickley went into aircraft design in 1933, powered flight was less than 25 years old and designing aeroplanes on the backs of envelopes was probably not far off the truth.

Lickley joined Hawker Aircraft under the tutelage of its chief designer Sydney Camm in 1933. There he was to be responsible for some of the most innovative and ingenious British aircraft designs ever built. Lickley was educated at Dundee High School and Edinburgh University, where he took first-class honours in civil engineering. In London he attended aeronautical engineering lectures by Harold Roxbee Cox (later Lord Rivington) at Imperial College, and soon afterwards joined Hawker at Kingston-upon-Thames as a stressman.

Sydney Camm was then making the first drawings of a monoplane version of the world's first jet engine, the Whittle jet engine. Lickley started on this project but Camm soon set

him to work with the assistant chief designer, Roy Chaplin, on a completely new monoplane with a "thick" wing capable of accommodating eight Browning 303 machine guns. This would give it a superior firepower to any rival American or German fighter.

The design became the Hurricane and the first production aircraft reached 111 Squadron at RAF Northolt in the summer of 1939. By then Lickley was chief project engineer and under his aegis Hawker turned out some of the second world war's most famous fighters and ground-attack aircraft, including the Typhoon, which destroyed German lines of communication after the Normandy landings, and the Tempest, which was the main weapon against the V-1 flying bomb.

In 1946 Lickley joined the Cranfield College of Aeronautics. There he established the first postgraduate department in Europe, and possibly the world, teaching aircraft design. Six years later he joined Fairchild Aviation as chief engineer, where his first responsibility was to develop an airborne, early warning version of the Gannet anti-submarine aircraft. Fairley was also working on a 60-degree delta-wing, supersonic design, the Fairchild Delta 2, and Lickley

soon took over the project, which embodied the "droop snoot" nose to provide the pilot with a better view while landing — a feature later used on Concorde.

The FD2's fuselage and power plant were incorporated in the BAC Type 221 research aircraft, used to develop the supersonic airliner's wing form. On March 10, 1956 the FD2 became the first aircraft to set the world speed record above 1,000 mph, when Peter Twiss broke the American record by a margin of 310 mph, at an average of 1,132 mph.

During the 1960s Lickley led a team with a range of projects inconceivable today. Apart from the Gannet and the FD2 he had responsibility for the Army's Ultra Light jet

helicopter, the Fireflash air-to-air guided weapon, an anti-tank guided missile, a fighter version of the FD2, and the Rotodyne, a prototype 48-seat vertical take-off and landing aircraft which first flew in 1957. Described as a helicopter, it was correctly known as a "convertiplane", powered by wing-mounted twin propeller turbines which pushed compressed air through the hollow rotor blades to tiny pressure jets at the rotor tips. These were derived from German wartime designs and a key Austrian engineer on forced labour for Hitler subsequently worked for Lickley.

In the same year as the Rotodyne's first flight the government published its notorious defence white paper, which foresaw a British aircraft industry made up of no more than two fixed-wing aircraft companies and one helicopter company. Lickley became a director of a nuclear engineering consortium involving Fairchild and managing director of Fairchild Aviation, which was formed to oversee the company's aircraft and helicopter interests.

In 1960 this company was absorbed, at the government's behest, into Westland Helicopters. Lickley went back to Hawker Siddeley Aviation, where he was again intimately involved with the de-

velopment of a revolutionary aeroplane, the Hawker Siddeley vertical take-off jet, which played a crucial role in the Falklands war and is still in service. Lickley also took a leading role in its sale to the United States.

In 1976 he left Hawker Siddeley and joined the National Enterprise Board with responsibility for Rolls-Royce in the wake of the RB211 jet engine financial crisis. His work did much to assure the company's long-term future. He received many honours, was appointed CBE in 1973, KB in 1984 and was awarded the Royal Aeronautical Society Gold Medal. He played a leading role in the work of the Science and Engineering Research Council.

Sir Robert Lickley was a perfectionist. Working for and with him could be a pleasure and was always a privilege. His tongue had a sharp edge if he was not convinced you knew your job, but he was also one of the kindest and most loyal friends one could have. He leaves a son and three grandchildren. His devoted wife Doris died in 1997.

Derek Thurgood

Robert Lang Lickley, aeronautical engineer, born January 19, 1912; died July 7, 1998



Lickley... planemaker

The Rev Raymond George

Glad tidings to all men

A CROSS 60 years, the contribution to theological education of the internationally renowned ecumenist and liturgical Raymond George, who has died aged 85, was incalculable. And his association with the Methodist Church's faith and order committee — which advises the Methodist Conference on doctrine, worship and ecumenism — lasted almost as long as his educational involvement.

He served on the committee from 1950 until 1975, when he became president of the conference. He brought immense liturgical knowledge and theological sensitivity to the preparation of the influential *Methodist Service Book* (1975).

Raymond was born and brought up in Gloucester, graduated from Balliol College, Oxford, with a double first, and got a first in the theological tripos from Wesley House, Cambridge. After

studying in Marburg, in Germany, from 1937 to 1939, he taught at Handsworth College, Birmingham, and then Hartley Victoria College, Manchester. After a brief period as a circuit minister, he joined Wesley College in Leeds in 1946, became principal in 1961, and left to become acting head of Leeds University's theology department from 1967 to 1968.

He was principal of London University's Richmond College from 1968 until its closure in 1972, and finally principal of Wesley College, Bristol, retiring in 1981. He was then warden of the New Room, Bristol, for 13 years while studying at Wesley College. He taught at various times New Testament Greek, systematic theology, philosophy, pastoral theology and — his greatest love — liturgical studies.

From 1961-75, Raymond was a member of the World Council of Churches' faith and order commission. He repre-

sented the World Council as an observer at the Roman Catholic liturgical commission from 1965. One of the original members in the 1960s of the joint liturgical group — on which all the major British churches are represented — he retired from it, after a period as chairman, in 1982.

Raymond never married, but was well cared for by a succession of housekeepers. His incompetence in practical matters was legendary. As respected and loved in other denominations as he was in Methodism, he was a true father-in-God to many. His passing leaves thousands of Methodists and others in gratitude for the ways in which he touched our lives.

Neil Osborn

Allard Raymond George, theologian, Methodist minister, born November 25, 1912; died June 23, 1998

Birthdays

Prof Sir James Ball, economist, 65; Sir Harrison Birtwistle, composer, 64; John Broom, guitarist, 65; Geoffrey Burgon, composer, 87; Prof Jocelyn Bell Burnell, astronomer, physicist, 55; Rosemary Butler, director of statistics, Dept of Health, 52; Carmen Calil, publisher, 60; John Denham, Labour MP, 45; Trevor Horn, record producer, 49; Ann Jellicoe, playwright, 71; Kate Kellaway, literary critic, 41;

Sir Larry Lamb, former editor, 69; Rachel Lomax, permanent secretary, Welsh Office, 53; Prof Brenda Milner, neuropsychologist, 80; Dame Iris Murdoch, novelist, 78; Keith Orrell-Jones, chief executive, Blue Circle Industries, 61; Juliet Pannett, portrait painter, 87; Marion Roe, Conservative MP, 62; Linda Ronstadt, rock star, 52; Prof Lord (Robert) Winston, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 58.

A Country Diary

SOMERSET: Pilton is a village of fine old stone buildings, which legend identifies as the port to which Joseph of Arimathea sailed on his journey to Glastonbury. The Pilton Festival, re-named the Glastonbury Festival, is a national event and the largest of its kind. And right beside one edge of the festival site are leafy vines starting to show fruit, part of a successful, modern winery. A few days after this year's festival a few tired but happy-looking knots of visitors still lingered, squatting on the steps of the village shop or sauntering dreamily through the lanes. Yellow-jacketed security men monitored entry and exit as workmen dismantled the last tubular steel structure and hoisted down duckboards and roadways. Across the valley stretches what looked like a Flanders battlefield. I turned down the twisting, precipitous Shop Lane to the heart of the almost empty and silent village. The church, part Norman, part perpendicular, part Victorian, settles comfortably amongst ancient trees with the five bays of the manor's Georgian front quietly imposing not far away. In every town and village now there are festivals, open-air markets or art-shows each weekend. Our vil-

lage fête was on a sunny day in the school field. There was no mud as wet sponges were hurled at the faces of teachers, and the WI cake stall did brisk business with never a security man in sight.

JOHN VALLONS

Death Notices

CLARENCE, 84, (private Margaret Mary, Lady Claren, formerly of London, died July 1998, beloved wife of Professor Sir Cyril David Claren, 2011, and mother of John, Stephen and Charles. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

LOUISE, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

MAURICE, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.

OLIVIA, 84, (private Dorothy Jane, 1914, beloved wife of John (deceased) and mother of a much loved son, John, and a daughter, Mrs. John, 1941. Buried at St. John's Church, 5, St. John's Road, London, W11 1JH, on Monday 20th July. Family flowers only please.



Boyd-Carpenter... a sharp mind and a taste for controversy

KENNETH SAUNDERS

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN OUR Higher Education section, pages 2 and 3, July 7, we quoted Sir Keith Thomas, president of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, as saying: "We have not had a Welshman at Corpus for 10 years" and that schools like Olchfa, in Swansea, did not raise pupils to the standards at which the college would accept them. Sir Keith has asked us to say that he has never said anything of the kind. He says there has been a steady stream of excellent entrants to Corpus from Wales, and that he wholly repudiates the remarks falsely attributed to him. The remarks to which he objects appear to have arisen out of a misunderstanding which we regret.

Apologies for the embarrassment which flowed from this.

IN AN ARTICLE on page 5, G2, July 9, we said the director of *The Hours and Times* was David Munch. It is Christopher Munch. The director of the film being shot in Boston with Denis Leary is Ted Demme (cousin of Jonathan), not Ted Demmy.

THE SET designer responsible for the Scarsboro company's *Arboreal* set pictured on page 14, G2, July 1, was Muir.

IN AN ARTICLE in the Secretarial section, page 45, G2, July 13, we said that Alyson Burn belonged to management consultants AMBD.

That should be ABMD. We also gave the wrong telephone number to call for details of her next assessment centre workshop on July 21 (it costs £50 for the three-hour workshop). Others will follow in August. The correct number is 01753 832434. Apologies.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Reader's Editor by telephoning 0171 330 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9597. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Analysis Teaching languages

Parlez-vous français?

Tony Blair does. But Britain is notoriously monoglot. And all the signs are that the nation is on the verge of suffering in economic, political and cultural terms. **John Carvel** wonders whether a counter initiative being launched this week by Trevor McDonald for the Nuffield Foundation is too little, too late



Labour's
Mr Modern

WHEN Tony Blair addressed the French parliament in March, it wasn't so much what he said as the language in which he said it. Our national reputation for monoglot aloofness tore apart, he even cracked jokes in good French. We now know his suspicions about socialism developed during a youthful stint as a waiter in Paris when he discovered he was the only member of staff naive enough to follow an instruction that all the tips should be put in a common pot.

His performance made news because it was so unusual. The rule is that the British are not as good as other Europeans at learning foreign languages. Perhaps British linguistic deficiency is a relic of empire or a symptom of insularity. But it may be a pragmatic response to the willingness of the rest of the world to learn English; if they take the trouble to make it possible for us to communicate in our own language, why bother learning theirs? The counter argument, from industrialists, is that this indolence may become a cost in an increasingly globalised economy.

This week the Nuffield Foundation is launching an inquiry into our language capability, chaired by Trevor McDonald, the ITV newscaster. "It is questionable," says the launch document, "whether our present capability in languages is sufficient to sustain us in economic, political, strategic, social and cultural terms, and whether our readiness to continue to rely on others learning our language will not leave us in a position of disadvantage in our personal, social and business contacts. We are apt to forget that speakers of other languages are not learning English for our benefit" (1).

Companies, it's said, continue to lose orders through lack of language skills, often at the level of telephone switchboards whose operators do not understand enough to put through the calls. In spite of government initiatives such as the annual Language For Export awards, Britain is second from bottom of the league of European companies with executives able to negotiate in a foreign language. When receivers

checked through the files of one British company that went into liquidation, they found an order in German that could have saved it from bankruptcy had any of the staff been able to understand it (2).

"Employers are turning increasingly to nationals of other countries when recruiting staff, especially in areas such as international transport, hotels, tourism and retailing. Multinationals are bringing in increasing numbers of staff from partner countries to fill key posts in this country" (3).

One of the inquiry's first tasks will be to establish the scale of the problem. The Government's drive to improve standards of maths in schools is motivated by extensive international research showing that British children are performing relatively badly in tests of basic numeracy (4). A parallel programme to improve literacy was prompted by evidence that only 60 per cent of 11-year-olds were achieving the expected national standard. But there are no hard data about linguistic competence. Over the past decade an effort has been made to improve language learning, Scotland pioneered a national scheme starting at primary level and England phased in a national curriculum requiring that all pupils are taught a foreign language from 11 to 16.

On average English pupils get 130 minutes of language lessons a week over five school years, compared to 150 minutes a week for eight years in the Netherlands and 180 minutes for nine years in France (see graphic). That does not suggest we are yet giving languages the priority seen in other parts of Europe.

THE languages curriculum did not become compulsory for 15-year-olds in England until September 1996 when this year's GCSE candidates were starting their courses. Their results will not be published until next month, but most schools implemented the policy earlier and there has been a steady increase in GCSE entries. As the graphic shows, French, German and Spanish numbers are up. These three account for 95 per cent of GCSE entries. There has also been a steady growth in Italian, Russian and Urdu, but from a much smaller base.

Such figures might suggest that changes in the monoglot culture have already been engineered, but it is not producing recruits for advanced study. Look at the figures for A level. Meanwhile the take up for General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) languages has been poor. Although tourism is now one of Britain's biggest service industries and 70 per cent of tourists come from non-English speaking countries, few candidates for the GNVQ in leisure and tourism bother with the languages option.

LID KING, director of the Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research (CILT), says decline in English A levels and Scottish Highers may be caused by the rigour of the exams. One result is that there are not enough students in a fit state to begin the growing number of combined degree courses being offered by the universities, linking a foreign language to other subjects. Students are crowding into crash remedial courses to acquire the language skills they should have gained earlier.

The good news about combined courses is that they do appear to be turning out more scientists, engineers and other specialists with the language skills needed for the international marketplace. The bad news is that numbers starting a straight foreign languages degree have fallen, from 10,633 in 1994/5 to 9,943 last year (5). Universities cannot fill the teacher training quotas set by the Teacher Training Agency for specialist language teachers. And secondary schools are finding it hard to fill their staff vacancies.

But does this lack of linguistic capability matter in a world where English has become the dominant language of business and international relations? In a recent yearbook of European organisations, 99 per cent cited English as a working language, as opposed to 63 per cent

world-wide web home pages are in English, with no other language topping 5 per cent. There are signs, however, that this powerful linguistic monopoly will not survive the end of the 20th century. Papers prepared for the Nuffield inquiry suggest that the proportion of Internet material in English will fall to about 40 per cent in the next decade as users are given more choice of language. The rich countries are ageing. Young adults with disposable income will increasingly be found in Asia and Latin America where trade and communications between neighbours may become more important than exchanges with the United States and Europe.

Last year a British Council study argued that the monopoly position of English will give way to an oligopoly of several languages (6). The author of the report, David Graddol, said: "We are moving to a stage quite soon in which the world will be saturated with English. Every area will have it as a second language and the countries with

a competitive edge will be those that have another world language as well... If Britain stays resolutely monolingual, competitors will thrive by having the language of the market into which they are selling. So there is an even more pressing need for British children to be learning languages for a multilingual future. Otherwise we will be left behind."

AN example of the trend can be seen in the rapid growth of call centres providing helplines for companies' international clients. Many are located in Britain because of the efficiency of telecommunications and the strength of English as a world language. But companies wanting to improve their service need to offer multilingual call centres. As other countries improve their telecoms, they might be better placed to take over a business that could become one of the highest sources of employment.

There can be no precise forecast of the world map of second languages, but the chances are that Mandarin, Russian and Spanish will among the oligopolists. These are not the tongues that

feature much in British classrooms. But language teachers argue that children can never waste their time by learning the wrong language. "You can't ask schools to predict the particular languages that everybody is going to need, but you can provide an education that helps pupils to become culturally open and linguistically capable. The ability to learn one language enhances the capability to learn others," says Lid King of CILT.

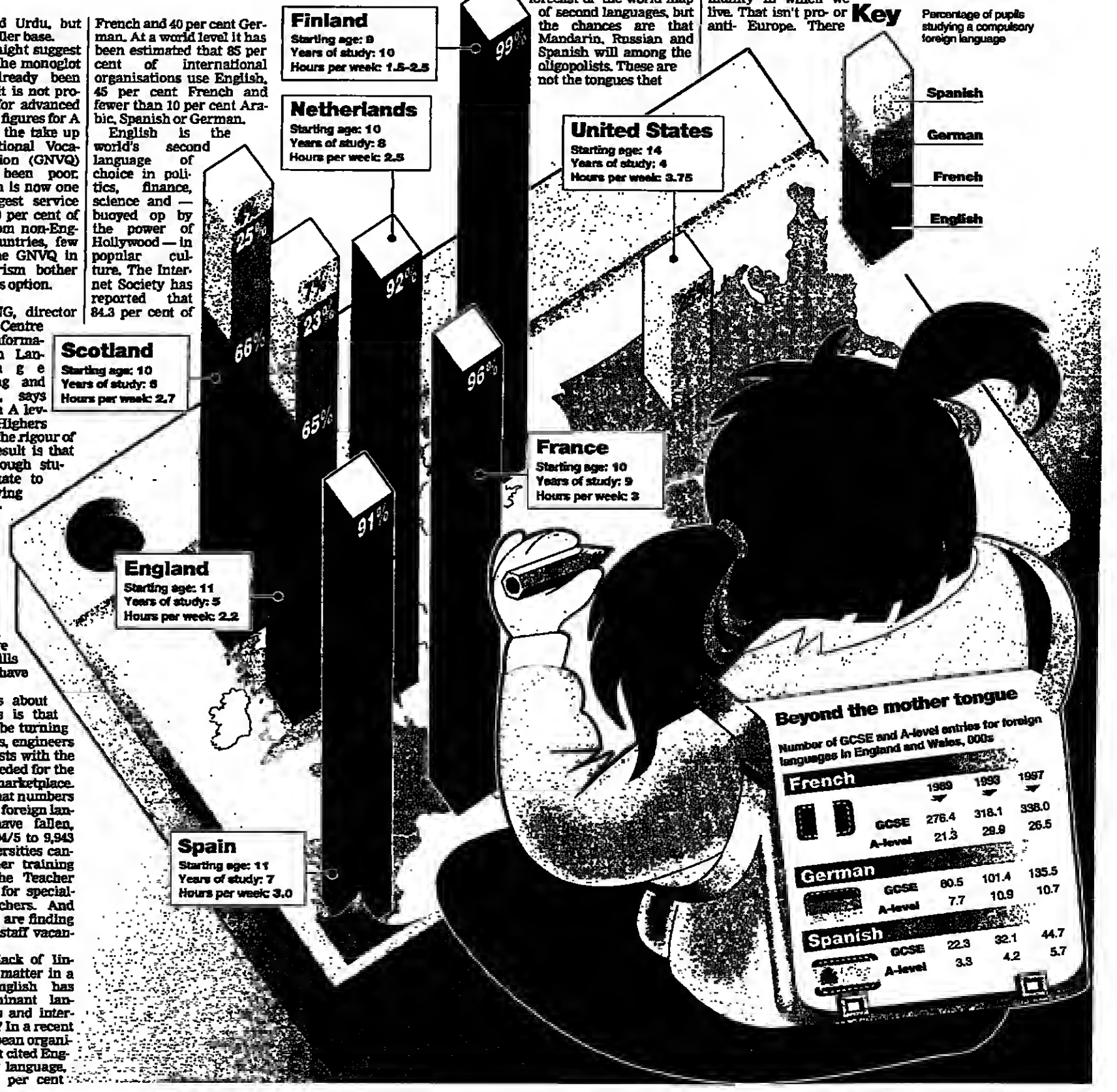
As the inquiry begins its work, Trevor McDonald has no doubt that the next generation of foreign correspondents will need more language skills than he ever had. "I came to feel travelling round as a reporter that it is ever so slightly arrogant to walk into a place and assume that everybody else would do it your way. The lack of more people in our profession who spoke languages was a disadvantage."

"My son Jack is nine. I keep drumming into his head that, in the world of tomorrow, competence in languages is probably going to be the passport to maturity in which we live. That isn't pro- or anti-Europe. There

are certain forces that are ineluctable... Inability to speak the languages of the community will render people at a great disadvantage."

Sources: (1) Nuffield Languages Inquiry, PO Box 2671, London W1A 3SH; 0171-911-5054; secretary Alan Moys; (2) Languages in European Business, edited by Stephen Hagan, City Technology Colleges Trust and Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research, 1993; (3) Language Strategy Working Group, Nuffield Foundation; (4) Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), National Foundation for Educational Research, 1997; (5) Higher Education Statistics Agency, Student Data Return December 1997; (6) The Future of English, David Graddol, British Council 1997.

Graphics Sources: Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research; European Commission. **Graphics:** Steve Villiers; Michael Agar. **Research:** Matthew Keating. **John Carvel** is the Guardian's education editor.



Do you have difficulty obtaining your copy of

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

00 44 171 713 4131

Email: john.adams@guardian.co.uk

or write to: John Adams, 119 Farringdon Road London EC1R 3ER

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clissitt
Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Inflation figures rally City

Markets act as if rate rises are over

Mark Atkinson
Economics Correspondent

THE Government's inflation target was back in sight yesterday after lower housing costs and a reversal in seasonal food prices helped shave almost half a percentage point off the rise in the cost of living.

With the effects of last year's Budget increases in fuel duties dropping out of the retail index in July and weak retail sales pointing to heavy discounting in the summer sales, there was optimism that the 2.5 per cent target could be hit within the next few months.

However, analysts were cautious to call a peak in base rates, currently 7.5 per cent, until there were clear signs of a deceleration in wage costs and a decisive slowdown in consumer demand.

"Clearer data is needed that domestic cost pressures are easing for risks of a further base-rate hike to fade," said Michael Saunders of Salomon Smith Barney, the American investment bank.

According to figures published by the Office for National Statistics, headline inflation fell from an annual rate of 4.2 per cent in May to 3.7 per cent in June.

cent from 3.2 per cent. The decreases in both rates were larger than anticipated in the City, and prompted a rally in share prices and a fall in the value of the pound, which closed at \$1.53 to the dollar as traders betted against another rate rise.

The ONS said that the largest downward effect was exerted by housing costs, which rose by less than last year's when mortgage repayments were boosted by higher lending rates, in turn prompted by base-rate increases in both May and June.

Almost as important was a partial reversal of May's rise in seasonal food prices caused by April's poor weather.

A resumption in supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables drove seasonal prices down by 3.2 per cent between May and June, with the price of strawberries falling particularly sharply, by 24 per cent.

The ONS said that weak demand for salads and fruit, due to the unseasonably cold and



Strawberry prices fell by 24 per cent from May to June

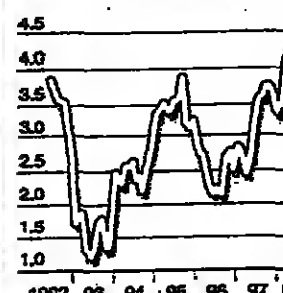
wet weather last month, may also have played a part in cutting prices of seasonal food.

The third factor helping to keep the rate of price increases down was lower motor costs — especially secondhand car prices, which are being depressed by good deals on new models.

Smaller downward effects

Inflation

Headline rate, annual % change



Source: Datahouse

came from prices for alcohol, household and leisure goods.

There were offsetting upward effects on the index from prices on personal services — although the ONS said these were negligible. It also pointed out that June's survey of prices had been conducted on June 16 and had therefore not picked

up the full effects of discounting in the summer sales.

These could be large, given the weakness of demand highlighted by Tuesday's British Retail Consortium survey.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC, cautioned that the figures, while encouraging for the view that base rates had peaked, revealed a continued split between low goods inflation, at 0.3 per cent, and high — 3.2 per cent — services inflation.

He said the Bank of England's monetary policy committee was likely to place more emphasis on forward-looking inflation indicators, such as activity and earnings, than on yesterday's figures.

"But we know from experience that the Bank of England's forecasts of where inflation will go are influenced by where it has been, and — if nothing else — these numbers provide a more favourable starting-point for the August inflation report than we had expected."

Notebook

Brown gamble is in with a chance



Alex Brummer

IN BROAD economic terms there could not be a better launchpad for the real Labour government of manifesto promises to begin.

The hard work of improving the credibility of monetary policy has been improved with an independent Bank of England which is, slowly and surely, starting to deliver a better inflation outlook.

Taxation decisions already taken, together with tough ceilings on public spending which will come off next spring, have helped to restore the national finances to balance and even surplus. And with the economy slowing rapidly there is perhaps no better point in the economic cycle than to provide some fiscal stimulus to pick up some of the slack left by a slowing industrial sector.

The lines of attack on what the government is doing were plain to see even before opposition spokesman Francis Maude was on his feet.

The critics say three things...

The government is failing to deliver on its promise to switch spending from social security budgets to health and education... It is storing up for itself enormous trouble if its sets in stone over-generous public spending commitments and then finds itself confronted by recession... The financial markets will take enormous fright at the headline increases in education and health spending, which present an image of prodigality.

EACH of these perceived shortcomings needs to be examined. It was always going to be impossible to cut the absolute levels of social security benefits, which include basic rights like state pensions and income support for the less well off. The task of ratcheting this down was always going to be difficult although welfare-to-work, the new deal for unemployed youth and tackling social security reform (every government promises that) will help in keeping real increases down.

In fact, cash for health and education will be largely found from much meaner settlements elsewhere in the public spending forest, including agriculture and defence where there will be real cuts in spending. Other spending will be bolted down, with the small but important exception of overseas aid.

The biggest risk for Chancellor Brown in the spending review is the economy. The Treasury forecasts, as outlined in the fiscal strategy report in June, are for a growth slowdown this year to 1.75 per cent picking up to 2 per cent in 1999-2000 and 2.25 per cent beyond.

It is continued growth, rather than lurch into recession.

sion, which rapidly transforms the public finances which is essential to Labour's blueprint. By all accounts it has the domestic base covered. The Bank of England and the City appear to have no direct worries about the broad shape of the public spending settlement.

Moreover, the latest figures showing the headline rate and underlying rate of inflation tumbling could well mean that the monetary policy committee will be more comfortable holding off on interest rate increases.

The big uncertainties are global. Just how serious are the problems in East Asia, which are evidenced by the IMF's new report on the US economy, which argues that current interest rates are "appropriate" in view of the Asian crisis. The IMF has begun revising down all its growth forecasts to take account of the failure of any recovery to emerge in East Asia and the uncertainty about a Japanese recovery.

THERE is a global shoring up process taking place from Russia to East Asia, with Japan right at the core of attention until a new government is in place. There has been a consistent underestimating of the scale of the Asian problem and that could yet jeopardise the government's attempt to institute a steady and predictable three-year process of managing public spending.

When there is recession the public finances are hit by a triple whammy — through reduced revenues, increased transfer payments like unemployment and higher interest charges on the national debt, and through spirals out of control.

The spending plans, particularly those for upgrading the nation's health, education and transport infrastructure, will offset some of the recessionary impulses. The headline figures for increases in health and education should not be taken at face value by the markets. In the case, for instance, of health the Chancellor spoke of a 5.1 per cent increase in spending, but that is measured in cash rather than real terms. The actual increase over the Parliament (taking account of the two cash ceiling years at the start) will be a generous, but less alarming 3.6 per cent. Better than the 3 per cent in the last Parliament, but not wildly prodigal. Particularly when one considers that the nation's vigour and education are investments in long-term future.

The key to bringing in public sector borrowing on target, with surpluses projected for each of the next three years, will be a continued tough regime inside government departments, and no recession.

Mr Brown has already demonstrated his readiness to play the iron Chancellor if spending principles are breached. The rest is down to global conditions and the Bank of England, neither of which he can control.

It is a more risky settlement than the City might have preferred. But if earnings and prices subside there is a reasonable chance of succeeding.

Black women take pole position on pay

Charlotte Demery

BLACK women have overtaken both black men and white women in the pay stakes, according to new research published today.

Workers from ethnic minorities tend to get paid less than their white counterparts, even taking into account educational qualifications. But black women have managed to buck the trend, according to figures published by the Employment Policy Institute.

Taking figures for 1997, the independent jobs think tank found that black women earned on average £5.10 an hour, compared to £5.19 an hour for white women and £5.85 for black men. Their earnings advantage shows up at both the top and bottom end of the labour market.

Despite the relatively good position of black women, the report shows that overall ethnic minorities lose out in the labour market. They are less likely to be employed than white people and, apart from Indian men and Black women, workers from ethnic minorities earn less than their white counterparts.

The situation is worst for Bangladeshi and Pakistani groups who are four times as likely to be unemployed and earn on average £2.00 an hour less than whites.

Presenting the report, Paul Gregg, of the Centre for Economic Performance, said it was unclear why black women were doing so well. "Racism in the labour market is a lot about fear. It could be that black women are seen as less threatening," he said.

The report also shows how the North-South gap in job opportunities has narrowed as the economy has swung out of recession since 1993. Unemployment



Backing the trend... Black women have overtaken both black men and white women in the pay stakes, according to Employment Policy Institute figures. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ANGLIS

is still high in inner cities, seaside towns and former industrial centres, where there are up to five job seekers for every vacancy.

But the blackspots coexist with booming areas and are no longer concentrated

in the north. Despite the dramatic fall in unemployment, only 6 per cent of the country enjoyed full employment, defined as having a vacancy for every job-seeker.

The "boom areas" cover a

belt of semi-urban Britain running from the Home Counties to the Welsh borders, through to Cheshire, Lancashire and North Yorkshire, plus parts of Scotland outside the Strathclyde area.

Plans to sell the Tote left in starting stalls

Don Atkinson

PROPOSALS to privatise the Tote appear to have been put on the back burner, with fears for the future of horseracing outweighing the £500 million that could be raised by a sale. Home Secretary Jack Straw said yesterday that his Tote review team — to report by the end of the year — will look only at the "possibility of a broader partnership between the... [Tote] and the private sector".

The team — which will be headed by the Tote chairman, Peter Jones, himself — will have to take into account "the health of horseracing". The Tote's contribution to the industry, currently in excess of £10 million a year, would be threatened were it to be sold outright to a private operator.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, raised the issue of the Tote's future on June 11, when he told MPs he was considering a sell-off, alongside the sale of Air Traffic Control and the Royal Mint, in a cash-raising exercise.

Suggestions that the Treasury was looking at selling 51 per cent of the Tote to the private sector were not denied, and earlier this month, it emerged that Japanese bank Nomura was considering a bid for the 70-year-old organisation. Camelot, the lottery operator, has also signalled an interest.

But it seems the fragile

state of the horseracing industry may have influenced a slow-down in the sale process.

Mr Straw said yesterday: "This is not a matter of moving straight to privatisation. That will clearly be one possible option, but we expect to look at a range of possibilities and nothing is ruled out at this stage."

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that the British Horseracing Board — the industry body that has drawn up its own plan to revive racing — was "in constant contact" with officials, adding that the responsible junior Home Office minister, George Howarth, had recently held a get-to-know-you meeting with board chairman Peter Savill.

Mr Straw said yesterday that references to the Tote in Mr Savill's plan "serve as both a recognition and an appreciation of the important role that it plays. For this reason I should like to make it clear that due weight will be attached to this central aspect of the Tote's role during the review."

The Tote is the monopoly supplier of "pari-mutuel", or pool, horserace betting, with 8 per cent of the total stake in the highest stakes. Established in 1926, it is a "body corporate" established by Parliament. It has no shareholders.

Yesterday the Tote reported record 1997/98 annual profits of £17.9 million, up 38 per cent, of which £10.2 million, up 17.5 per cent, will go to the industry.

Bankers celebrate European court ruling on VAT payments

BRITAIN'S tax authorities were last night bracing themselves for claims for tens of millions of pounds, following a landmark decision by the European Court of Justice, writes Mark Milner.

The court ruled that foreign exchange deals count as services as far as value added tax was concerned — opening the way for banks and other financial institutions to reclaim VAT payments incurred in carrying out foreign transactions but also want to be outside the European Union.

The decision comes after a challenge to the UK tax authorities by First National Bank of Chicago.

A revenue spokesman said

last night that it was difficult to quantify the tax that would have to be repaid but said "it is probably going to cost us less than £100 million".

City accountants welcomed the court decision — against which there is no appeal — arguing that it brought the UK into line with the EU.

As a result of the ruling "many banks and other financial institutions will be able to make retrospective claims for input tax recovery on a fair and reasonable basis," according to Peter Jenkins, a partner at Ernst & Young. "The overall payments by the Treasury will probably run into tens of millions of pounds."

UN opts for British firm BA in a spin over tail fins

David Gow
Industrial Editor

A "GREEN" British defence contractor has won a lucrative, exclusive contract to supply the United Nations with hundreds of mine-protected armoured vehicles for peace-keeping and humanitarian missions in war-torn areas.

The Trading Force, a private limited firm based in Fulham, west London, has secured an initial \$300 million (about £188 million), three-year deal to provide the UN with around 2,000 vehicles to convey troops and observers in areas such as Bosnia, the Middle East and Georgia.

The vehicles, built by a South African armaments manufacturer, Reumeb, which makes tanks and howitzers, are constructed around a hardened capsule that protects the occupants from the effects of anti-personnel and land mine blast, as well as high-powered ballistic attack. They cost up to \$250,000 each, a quarter the price of a normal armoured personnel carrier.

Francis Le Carpentier, joint chief executive of the Trading Force, which he co-founded in 1988 and which is now a prime contractor to the UN, said last night: "We are taking fighting machines and turning them into peace-keeping vehicles. It's the green

side of the arms industry — we deal with nothing that causes harm to people."

He said the UN now had 11,000 vehicles for its peace-keeping and humanitarian missions but only 2,000 were armoured, few protected against devices such as landmines and many coming to the end of their lives.

"The vehicles we are supplying have been proven to offer protection against mines and to be much more stable and longer lasting," he added.

Mr Le Carpentier said the advantage of the Reumeb vehicles, known as Mammas and Nyalas, is that they could operate in regions shattered by war yet appear to locals very like "normal" vehicles.

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to modify the controversial £20 million tail fin redesign on its aircraft after continual public protest since it introduced its new global colours more than a year ago, chief executive, Bob Ayling, said yesterday.

Mr Ayling revealed that BA had already decided to modify the designs when the issue was raised again at yesterday's annual meeting. One shareholder, Peter Watson, said they supported BA because it was British. But, he went on: "I don't honestly feel that this is reflected by the

new tail fin. It is a question of the pride of being British. The fin looks like a piece of plastic."

Mr Ayling agreed that the issue was important. "We want to maintain our British image but we also want to be a company which is global. More than 60 per cent of our customers come from abroad and they say that they like the global images on our tail fins."

He said that BA was still trying to find a solution. "We have no intention of getting rid of our three main colours, blue, red and white. They are very popular."

BA later revealed that some designs were being modified, including one which depicted

Chinese calligraphy. It admitted that some were too complicated.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chairman, backed Mr Ayling. He understood people's reservations about the new tail fin, he said, "but we are not trying to disguise or deny our British heritage — traditional British qualities allied to a modern, international outlook are our strengths."

Another shareholder questioned the chief executive on whether he was about to leave for a Government post, as some rumours had suggested. When Mr Ayling said that his intention was to remain with BA as long as he had the support of the board, Sir Colin quickly backed him.

Clampdown on mobile prices

Simon Evans
Media Business Editor

MOBILE phone companies were last night facing a prices clampdown from watchdog Ofcom along with another three months of grilling examination by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The new director-general of Ofcom, David Edmonds, is understood to be drawing up plans to force the companies to publish much clearer prices for their services so that consumers can easily compare offers from the rival operators — Vodafone, Cellnet, Orange and One2One.

The emergence of the new restrictions came as the MMC won agreement from Mr Ed-

monds to extend its current six-month inquiry into the high cost of mobile phone calls by a further three months, delaying any announcement until December.

Although the MMC inquiry is shaping up into one of the most extensive investigations of the mobile-phone industry in Britain, it is nevertheless focusing on the issue of how much it costs to call a mobile from a fixed line.

It is primarily aimed at market leaders Vodafone and Cellnet, which is 60 per cent owned by British Telecom.

Amid widespread complaints from consumers that they are being inundated with offers from the operators, Mr Edmonds is considering asking them to conform to common tariff structures.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.587	Germany 2.955	Malaysia 8.97	Singapore 2.74
Austria 20.20	Greece 475.48	Malta 0.6287	South Africa 5.57
Belgium 66.23	Hong Kong 12.35	Netherlands 3.2234	Spain 22.11
Canada 2.357	India 59.58	New Zealand 3.08	Sweden 12.85
Cyprus 0.84	Ireland 13.15	Norway 12.24	Switzerland 2.42
Denmark 11.01	Israel 6.01	Portugal 252.07	Turkey 425.05
Finland 8.17	Italy 2.559	Saudi Arabia 6.04	USA 1.04
France 6.21			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and pound)

Taxing for the arrivals

Stamps strike free-duck

Home Secretary's review plan hints at broader partnership with private sector for the Tote. **Chris Hawkins** reports

Festina
sent ho
drug se

for seven days (starting July 23) by the Brighton stewards who found him guilty of riding an ill-judged race on 2-5 chance Splendid Isolation, beaten a short-head by Roisin Splendour in the Brighton Park Stakes yesterday.

Other jockeys in trouble yesterday were Darren Moffatt and Kevin Darley. Moffatt got an eight-day ban after

striking fellow rider Dean Mernagh with the whip in the Collecting Ring Apprentices Handicap at Beverley, while Darley was banned for three days for careless riding aboard Sealed By Fate in the GNV Stand Handicap.

ROW	COX	TOP FORM
1.40	Far-So-La	Ryder O'Reilly
2.10	Boomerang Blade	Leibel Hope
2.40	Peeping Pearl	Lundin
3.10	Raffly Spiney	Raffly Spiney
3.40	Ego Night	Stammatic (new)
4.10	King Priam	Prismatic
		Prismatic

Right-handed, undulating track of 1 mi. with 250 run-in. Straight 65.
Geology: Good. ★ Denotes blinkers. @ Top form noted.
Drain: High numbers favored over 68.
Seven day winners: 4 40 Ym Mountain
Unlabeled first time: 4 10 South Lady; 3 10 Tashiro, Beckenham insight; 4 10 Dan Hol
Placed in 4 40 Six Ventr
Names in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J. J. J.

1.40 DRAINBROOM CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (DRV 1)									
71 22,490 (14 declared)									
1001 (17)	13-000	Radio Ofc (44)	(64) R Wilkins	4-9-6	5	Wills	4-9-6		
1002 (1)	505000	Endeavour (44)	(31) C. Dwyer	5-9-7					
1003 (1)	5-0000	Whisperin' (14)	(28) J. Jones	5-9-7					
1004 (13)	400000	Charlie Ashley Jack	(29) (6) P. Williams	4-0-0					

[illegible]

Baiting: 7-2 PM Choclos; 5-1 Pledge Official Dark Avenue; 1-1 Last Chance; Same Day; 5-1 Gorn Lane; 5-1 Gainers Glory; 2-1 Glencardo

PLANT RECORDS - Under Official Reading: For sale, open market. 2400 M. 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000, 1010, 1020, 1030, 1040, 1050, 1060, 1070, 1080, 1090, 1100, 1110, 1120, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1180, 1190, 1200, 1210, 1220, 1230, 1240, 1250, 1260, 1270, 1280, 1290, 1300, 1310, 1320, 1330, 1340, 1350, 1360, 1370, 1380, 1390, 1400, 1410, 1420, 1430, 1440, 1450, 1460, 1470, 1480, 1490, 1500, 1510, 1520, 1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570, 1580, 1590, 1600, 1610, 1620, 1630, 1640, 1650, 1660, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, 1740, 1750, 1760, 1770, 1780, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030, 2040, 2050, 2060, 2070, 2080, 2090, 2100, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190, 2200, 2210, 2220, 2230, 2240, 2250, 2260, 2270, 2280, 2290, 2300, 2310, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2350, 2360, 2370, 2380, 2390, 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460, 2470, 2480, 2490, 2500, 2510, 2520, 2530, 2540, 2550, 2560, 2570, 2580, 2590, 2600, 2610, 2620, 2630, 2640, 2650, 2660, 2670, 2680, 2690, 2700, 2710, 2720, 2730, 2740, 2750, 2760, 2770, 2780, 2790, 2800, 2810, 2820, 2830, 2840, 2850, 2860, 2870, 2880, 2890, 2900, 2910, 2920, 2930, 2940, 2950, 2960, 2970, 2980, 2990, 3000, 3010, 3020, 3030, 3040, 3050, 3060, 3070, 3080, 3090, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3130, 3140, 3150, 3160, 3170, 3180, 3190, 3200, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3240, 3250, 3260, 3270, 3280, 3290, 3300, 3310, 3320, 3330, 3340, 3350, 3360, 3370, 3380, 3390, 3400, 3410, 3420, 3430, 3440, 3450, 3460, 3470, 3480, 3490, 3500, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3540, 3550, 3560, 3570, 3580, 3590, 3600, 3610, 3620, 3630, 3640, 3650, 3660, 3670, 3680, 3690, 3700, 3710, 3720, 3730, 3740, 3750, 3760, 3770, 3780, 3790, 3800, 3810, 3820, 3830, 3840, 3850, 3860, 3870, 3880, 3890, 3900, 3910, 3920, 3930, 3940, 3950, 3960, 3970, 3980, 3990, 4000, 4010, 4020, 4030, 4040, 4050, 4060, 4070, 4080, 4090, 4100, 4110, 4120, 4130, 4140, 4150, 4160, 4170, 4180, 4190, 4200, 4210, 4220, 4230, 4240, 4250, 4260, 4270, 4280, 4290, 4300, 4310, 4320, 4330, 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380, 4390, 4400, 4410, 4420, 4430, 4440, 4450, 4460, 4470, 4480, 4490, 4500, 4510, 4520, 4530, 4540, 4550, 4560, 4570, 4580, 4590, 4600, 4610, 4620, 4630, 4640, 4650, 4660, 4670, 4680, 4690, 4700, 4710, 4720, 4730, 4740, 4750, 4760, 4770, 4780, 4790, 4800, 4810, 4820, 4830, 4840, 4850, 4860, 4870, 4880, 4890, 4900, 4910, 4920, 4930, 4940, 4950, 4960, 4970, 4980, 4990, 5000, 5010, 5020, 5030, 5040, 5050, 5060, 5070, 5080, 5090, 5100, 5110, 5120, 5130, 5140, 5150, 5160, 5170, 5180, 5190, 5200, 5210, 5220, 5230, 5240, 5250, 5260, 5270, 5280, 5290, 5300, 5310, 5320, 5330, 5340, 5350, 5360, 5370, 5380, 5390, 5400, 5410, 5420, 5430, 5440, 5450, 5460, 5470, 5480, 5490, 5500, 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550, 5560, 5570, 5580, 5590, 5600, 5610, 5620, 5630, 5640, 5650, 5660, 5670, 5680, 5690, 5700, 5710, 5720, 5730, 5740, 5750, 5760, 5770, 5780, 5790, 5800, 5810, 5820, 5830, 5840, 5850, 5860, 5870, 5880, 5890, 5900, 5910, 5920, 5930, 5940, 5950, 5960, 5970, 5980, 5990, 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050, 6060, 6070, 6080, 6090, 6100, 6110, 6120, 6130, 6140, 6150, 6160, 6170, 6180, 6190, 6200, 6210, 6220, 6230, 6240, 6250, 6260, 6270, 6280, 6290, 6300, 6310, 6320, 6330, 6340, 6350, 6360, 6370, 6380, 6390, 6400, 6410, 6420, 6430, 6440, 6450, 6460, 6470, 6480, 6490, 6500, 6510, 6520, 6530, 6540, 6550, 6560, 6570, 6580, 6590, 6600, 6610, 6620, 6630, 6640, 6650, 6660, 6670, 6680, 6690, 6700, 6710, 6720, 6730, 6740, 6750, 6760, 6770, 6780, 6790, 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, 6850, 6860, 6870, 6880, 6890, 6900, 6910, 6920, 6930, 6940, 6950, 6960, 6970, 6980, 6990, 7000, 7010, 7020, 7030, 7040, 7050, 7060, 7070, 7080, 7090, 71

2.10		EBF SPITIRE MAIDEN STAKES 2Y0	
6f £3,662 (13 declared)			
2011 (7)	1 Admiration Place (20) R. Armstrong 9-0	9 Carter	79
2012 (7)	5 Pambol (20) J. Jordan 9-0	8 Weather	88
2013 (12)	30 Distant View (20) R. Langan 9-0	7 Baynes	89
2014 (12)	10 Little River 9-1	7 Selton	89

[illegible][illegible]

2.40 KINGFISHER MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2Y0			
71 £2,400 (13 declared)			
301 (R)	3	Ambleton (22) C Deputy 8-11	W Ryan
302 (2)		Ambleton's Kidling W Deputy 8-11	P Symonds
305 (10)	625	Jack Dawson (7) J S Moore 8-8	P P Murphy (9)

206 (6)	000	Plant in the W of Highway 8-6	W. of Highway 8-6	8	10
207 (6)	000	Plant in Ucross W Hwy 8-6	W. of Highway 8-6	8	10
207 (4)	55	Plant Primary (17) in Ucross 8-6	Ucross 8-6	8	10
208 (2)	000	Deceptive Primary (11) in W Pave 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10
209 (1)	000	Interruption Primary (17) in W Hwy 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10
210 (11)	000	Royal Thymus (9) in W Hwy 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10
211 (2)	000	Spine Ridge in W Hwy 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10
212 (3)	000	Spine Ridge in W Hwy 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10
213 (1)	000	Spine Ridge in W Hwy 8-3	W. of Highway 8-3	8	10

[illegible]

3.10	ORANGEBOOM CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (DIV 2)	
	7 E2, 469 (14 declared)	
401 (5)	8-0000 Prichard Zander (C) C Harmon 6-4	A McNamee 77
402 (9)	0-00000 Rayley Spangler (M) R Harris 4-2-2	B Hughes 89
403 (4)	4-4330 My Little Eagle (E) J Hines 4-3-0	C Mills 77
404 (12)	00000000 Just Deal Last Long P Rider 4-3-0	D Stevens 80
405 (8)	4630-0 Combustion (A) S Simpson 5-6-0	E Gallagher 80

[illegible]

Netting: 7-4 Phoebe Song, 7-1 Ruby Sparrow, My Legal Eagle, 1-11 Sooty Tern, 12-11 Purple Finch, 12-11 Goldfinch, Silver Jay, 14-11 House Gold Finch.

Forest GARDEN - Ruby Sparrow: With no other, every place over 21, out soon nibbles and swallows, 11th of 14, 8. **FRONT GARDEN** at Newmarket 7 app. each. **Ed. My Legal Eagle:** Prominent and best placed bird on 50, never dangerous any, 11th of 11, 12 behind Paddy's Place at Bally Ina chain link, 60-80. **Songbird:** Trained bird, nibbles behind, captured 2nd, 3rd, 6th of 15, 16 behind Paddy's Place at Newmarket 11 app. **AW:** Pseudo-Blackbird 11th nibbled and headed near bird, 2nd of 14, 30 behind Paddy's Place at Newmarket 11 nest. 60.

3.40		SHEPHERD NEAME TRICENTENARY HANDICAP		OF £3,785 (3 declared)	
593	42200	Johnny Staccato (55)	W J O'Sullivan 4-3-13	8	Poland (5)
592	26-26	Neptune (22)	Q J Woods 5-9-11	7	Delmon (57)
591	2-2237	Ego Mago (13)	W J O'Sullivan 3-10-17	6	Fennell (57)
594	2-0343	Blackie, King Mac 1	S. Smith 4-0-6	5	Smyth 4
595	0-0559	Starline Mike (21)	Q J Woods 3-9-5	4	A Clerk (5)

[illegible]

4.10 SUN LK HANDICAP 3YO
1m 41.22,950 (6 declared)

BOX 10	D-4632	King Prince (10B M) Pops 0-7	6 Furlong (4)	27
--------	--------	------------------------------	---------------	----

[illegible]

4.40 BISHOP'S FINGER CLASSIFIED STAKES
1m 11 149yds £2,406 (7 declared)

2	302455	Classic Floor (5) (3) Pat Mitchell	5-0-5	W. Frazier	89
3	422-00	Classic Floor (5) (3) Lucy Harris	7-0-5	A. Clark	89
4	0008-0	Frontiers (7) W. Frazier	4-0-5	W. Frazier	78
5	527121	Iron Mirrors (2) (3) A. Callahan	9-3-12	A. Callahan	77
6	0-1008	Silly Visions (2) (3) S. Woods	3-6-10	A. Day	84
7	0-000	Inception (1) (3) H. H. H. H.		J. S. Smith	87

Building: 5-2 Iron Mirrors, 4-1 Classic Floor, 3-2 Sea Dragon, 5-1 Ocean Park, 6-1 Inception, 7-1 Silly Visions, 8-1 Frontiers

Results

.....

BEVERLY
2.16s 1, BAY OF DELIGHT, N Catten

stewards inquiry, the second and third places were reversed.
JACKPOT: £26,084, part won. £25,568 carry-over to Folkestone today.
PLACEPOT: £76.80. QUADPOT: £13.10.

BRIGHTON

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

KEEPING TRACK

0891 222 +		COMMENTARY	RESULTS
GATTERICK	771		781
FOLKESTONE	772		782

TARROUTH	773	783
SANDOWN (E)	774	784
DONCASTER(E)	775	785
WORCESTER(E)	776	786
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	0691 222 780	
ALL COURSE RESULTS	0691 222 790	

TheGuardian  **INTERACTIVE**

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1037.

The Open Championship

Faldo out of rough to give the elbow to soft options

David Davies on the three-times winner's recovery from injury

THE official bulletin on England's most famous walking-wounded golfer came in clipped Swedish tones. "Ob yes," said Fanny Sunesson. "He will play. For sure."

She was, of course, talking about her boss, Nicholas Alexander Faldo, six times a major champion, thrice winner of this championship, who at one stage last week seemed certain to be elbowed from the Open.

Faldo, one of the hardest workers in the game, had acquired that which often comes to those who slave, golfer's elbow. It is an agonising condition, and it caused the Englishman to withdraw from last week's Loch Lomond event.

But continuous treatment has had a beneficial effect and Faldo, who spent much of Monday playing virtual golf, just envisioning shots, yesterday laid club to ball in the proper fashion. He had threatened to play hitting the ball off a tee peg all the way round, but after some tentative shots on the first hole he decided that there was no real pain and no real danger of further damage to the elbow.

At the second hole he hit a drive down the middle and then teed the ball up. Some- one in the crowd shouted out

that it was against the rules. Faldo, in good humour, shouted back, "I'm allowed," but then took the ball off the peg and instead played it from the first cut of rough. Thereafter he played properly and unless there is a reaction it seems he will be able to complete his preparations in conventional fashion.

When Faldo, who will be 41 on Saturday, tees up tomorrow it will be his 44th consecutive major and that is the longest unbroken run in world golf. He has some way to go, though, before he surpasses Jack Nicklaus, who by not playing this week has finished his run on 154: all Faldo has to do to catch Nicklaus is play in every major for the next 28 years, by which time he will be 69.

Such has been Faldo's form of late that he is on offer for the championship at 50-1, with William Hall, and at 20-1 to be the leading European. Eight players in the latter category come before him: Colin Montgomerie and Lee Westwood at 9-2, Darren Clarke, Ian Woosnam and Jose Maria Olazabel at 12-1, Jesper Parnevik at 14-1, and Thomas Bjorn and Bernhard Langer at 18-1.

Bill's says that it is entirely possible that, given the way the betting is going, Westwood will start as overall favourite. The Workshop man has won more tournaments in the past nine months than anyone else in the world, including Tiger Woods and David Duval. In that time he has won in Spain,



Bank off... the Masters winner Mark O'Meara fails to escape from a hazard at the 11th in practice yesterday; he finally threw his ball on to the green

PHOTOGRAPH: KEVIN LAMARQUE

Japan, Australia and the United States, and three times in Europe — in Germany, England and Scotland.

That is a surge of form which has carried him to seventh in the world rankings and, in addition to getting him accustomed to winning at one level, has encouraged him to think about winning at the highest level.

"It's like any sport," Westwood said yesterday. "Once you start getting a few good

results your confidence grows and when your confidence grows you feel unbeatable. Whenever I turn up at a tournament now I feel like I should be in contention and have a good chance of winning if I play as well as I can."

If Westwood's steep rise to the top has surprised a few people, he himself is not among them. "I've put in a lot of hard work with my coach, Peter Cowen, and hopefully it was going to pay off at some

stage. And I've sacrificed a few things as well because my ultimate aim is to be No. 1 in the world."

He was not prepared to reveal fully what the sacrifices were, but it was put to him that a few nights out with the lads might be one of them. "You sacrifice little things like that," he said, "but you know, sacrificing going out and getting drunk on Friday night with the lads, it's not a lot to sacrifice, is it, and you

save yourself a few quid as well."

Westwood, like Ernie Els, feels that the emergence of Woods, and especially his winning the 1997 Masters by 12 shots, has had its effect on the games of all the other top players.

"I don't think it's a coincidence," he said, "that since Tiger won you've seen a big improvement in my game. David Duval's game, Justin Leonard's game, Ernie Els's

game. When someone does what Tiger did it drags everybody else along. I think it can only be good for the game worldwide."

All those players are talented, but none has the price- less asset possessed by Westwood of almost infinite golfing patience. No one is rattled less by a bad shot or by a bad hole, and as both are bound to occur this week the ability to forget them will be invaluable.

Yesterday Westwood revealed a part of the secret of such equanimity. He said of this week's big event, "I'm not afraid of winning," but, and this is the important bit, he added, "and I'm not afraid of losing."

He went on: "If I don't win the Open this year it won't be the end of the world to me. I would dearly love to win it but it's not life and death. It's only a game at the end of the day."

Tiger must wait his turn this year

LEE WESTWOOD, thrown in at the deep end at last month's US Open when he was paired in the first two rounds with Tiger Woods and Tom Watson, will have less illustrious company at Royal Birkdale tomorrow.

The European No. 1 has been grouped with the American Ryder Cup player Brad Faxon and Namibia's Trevor Dodds.

Westwood drives off at 9.55am, two matches behind the European No. 2 Colin Montgomerie. The

Scott has been paired with the Americans Ben Crenshaw and Andrew Magee.

Woods tees off with the 1994 winner Nick Price and the Swede Per-Ulrik Johansson at 9.55am.

Nick Faldo's elbow will benefit from a late tee-off time with Masters champion Mark O'Meara and Japan's Shigeaki Maruyama. Their 1.05pm start gives him time for on-the-day treatment. At 1.30pm Ian Woosnam starts with the US Open champion Lee Janzen and Australia's Craig Parry.

The master puts his trust in new woods

Mike Selvey at Royal Birkdale on why the former champion is joining the Adams family

NICK FALDO, so his advertising says, is a fastidious man when it comes to his golf. He tinkers, he chops and he changes in the cause: his swing, his ball, his clubs. Little is sacred in pursuit of excellence.

So it will come as no surprise to find that, should his dicky elbow permit him to tee up in tomorrow's first round, he will do so having decided to switch club manufacturers once more. Not to one of the

game's established big guns, though, but to a small independent outfit which has become one of the fastest-growing golf companies in the United States. You will find Adams Golf, or its founder Barney Adams, in an exhibition tent here. That is

not their style. Adams drove up from London on Monday to spend a few days wandering about the place and talking with Faldo's manager John Simpson, and will be back at his desk in Plano, Texas, before the name of the champion is engraved on the old Claret Jug.

Adams, a burly, genial fellow in his late fifties, is an engineer by training but 12 years ago moved into club manufacturing, first as a component producer and then as a customiser. And so it was that the Tight Lie fairway woods came to be born.

One evening, he went to his office, took a yellow business

pad and sketched a design. It took 20 minutes and, give or take a rounded corner or so, that is the design which stands now, and which so intrigued Faldo.

He experimented with them, found them the best he had used and asked Simpson to phone Adams to see if there was a possibility of working together.

"I did a bit of research and found that Nick's club com-

sists, to the final testing which is his responsibility — to replace eventually all the clubs in his bag."

Could this diversion into club design, sitting alongside his interests in courses, be the beginning of a wind-down for Faldo? Adams thinks not. "He certainly doesn't give me that impression at all," he said.

"With Nick I felt we had the chance to associate with someone whose status from a technical standpoint is almost unparalleled today and whose emphasis on quality goes without saying. Although he has been playing some terrible stuff he is, I believe, someone who has a lot of good golf left in him yet."

"I certainly do not think this is an elder-statesman winding-down kind of business. From my observations, the fire burns in him as strongly as it ever did."

South Korea's Se Ri Pak and Australia's Karrie Webb will be the main draws at the women's British Open, which begins at Royal Lytham on August 13. Pak won US Open earlier this month and Webb, the defending champion, hopes to become the first player to win the tournament three times. The British challenge will be led by Laura Davies, Kathryn Marshall and Mhairi McKay.



Injury time... Faldo tests his elbow yesterday

NICK HEWITT

It was a design sketched in 20 minutes which intrigued Faldo

tract was coming up," said Adams. "So when we met I asked them to be frank and tell me if they were shopping for some leverage against Mizuno. If they were, I said, I would be out of there. But if they were looking for a positive relationship it would have to be a partnership because I did not want an arms-length deal where he played the clubs and we just paid him."

"So what we have is a relationship where we say Nick uses Tight Lie clubs now, he's using the woods, but is also involved in a project — from preliminary design meetings in which he

not their style. Adams drove up from London on Monday to spend a few days wandering about the place and talking with Faldo's manager John Simpson, and will be back at his desk in Plano, Texas, before the name of the champion is engraved on the old Claret Jug.

Adams, a burly, genial fellow in his late fifties, is an engineer by training but 12 years ago moved into club manufacturing, first as a component producer and then as a customiser. And so it was that the Tight Lie fairway woods came to be born.

One evening, he went to his office, took a yellow business

pad and sketched a design. It took 20 minutes and, give or take a rounded corner or so, that is the design which stands now, and which so intrigued Faldo.

He experimented with them, found them the best he had used and asked Simpson to phone Adams to see if there was a possibility of working together.

"I did a bit of research and found that Nick's club com-

sists, to the final testing which is his responsibility — to replace eventually all the clubs in his bag."

Could this diversion into club design, sitting alongside his interests in courses, be the beginning of a wind-down for Faldo? Adams thinks not. "He certainly doesn't give me that impression at all," he said.

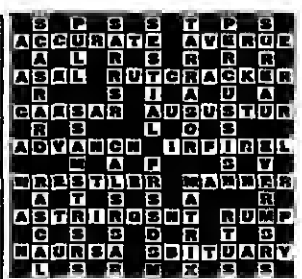
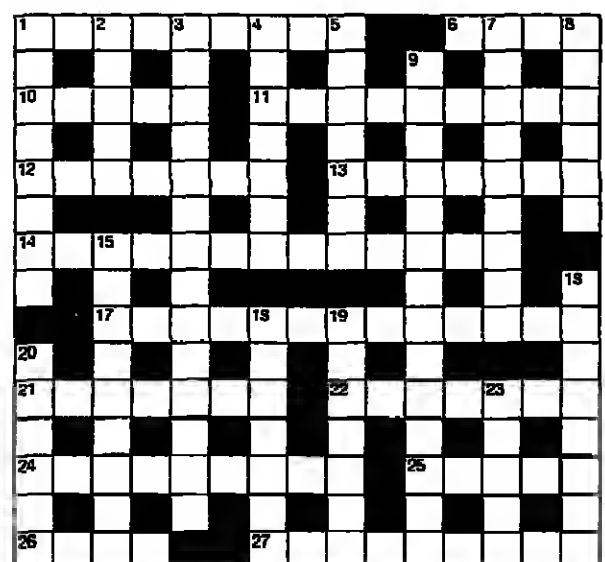
"With Nick I felt we had the chance to associate with someone whose status from a technical standpoint is almost unparalleled today and whose emphasis on quality goes without saying. Although he has been playing some terrible stuff he is, I believe, someone who has a lot of good golf left in him yet."

"I certainly do not think this is an elder-statesman winding-down kind of business. From my observations, the fire burns in him as strongly as it ever did."

South Korea's Se Ri Pak and Australia's Karrie Webb will be the main draws at the women's British Open, which begins at Royal Lytham on August 13. Pak won US Open earlier this month and Webb, the defending champion, hopes to become the first player to win the tournament three times. The British challenge will be led by Laura Davies, Kathryn Marshall and Mhairi McKay.

Guardian Crossword No 21,327

Set by Araucaria



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,327

Across

- 1 Expose as fake (say) note enclosed in sausage meat (5,3)
- 6 Servant of paper (4)
- 10 Cold rhubarb (5)
- 11 Should he worry about love in the home? (9)
- 12 Breathe regret for amphibians in non-nuclear bodies (7)
- 13 Skinny fellow with warmer coat? (7)
- 14 Millionaires of a different humour from 37 (8,4)
- 17 Stage work — one of Shakespeare's after death of 6 or 26? (3,5,5)
- 21 Commercial line? On the contrary? (7)
- 22 He is loving and giving, which makes one shudder (7)
- 24 ... most of the following day a number are looking gloomy (9)

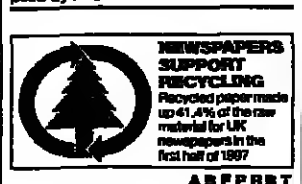
Down

- 1 New York city heard Your Majesty charge (8)
- 2 Clear and reaching the green (5)
- 3 Perry's beheaded with 25 and 26 — characters from Shakespeare play (5,2,5)
- 4 Where there's a letter to men — British — from St Paul? (7)
- 5 Non-U spiritual leader to I-lavitate in an abrupt manner (7)
- 7 Dish has boiled — it's done (6)
- 8 Put the last river last (6)
- 9 Nurture by look at newspaper for frequent consultation (4-4,6)

- 15 Digger finding gold returned to tax it (8)
- 16 Sign from 1 down and 4 in the 3 (4,4)
- 18 Winds in East (5,7,7)
- 19 Think what 9 does to following cars (7)
- 20 Range of service provided (5)
- 23 Derogatory name for Pole with pupil (5)

Solution tomorrow

25 Quack? Then call our solutions line on 0921 336 223. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by ATS



Headbanger giving Westwood a head start

Lawrence Donegan on Peter Cowen, a professional club-chucker turned top coach

ONE mark of the great player is an even temperament, which may explain why Lee Westwood has won almost £1 million in the past nine months whereas Peter Cowen abandoned the professional circuit in 1980 because he could barely make enough to pay the mortgage.

When not swinging like an angel, Westwood generally behaves like one. Cowen, by contrast, was a world-class club-chucker.

"His head came off" is how the locker-room sages describe such antics, and when the 47-year-old Yorkshireman was on the circuit the head was off more times than on an average day in revolutionary Paris.

"My record was three broken clubs in one round," he grins. "Then there was

the time with the driver."

There is not an amateur golfer in the land who does not know the end of that story: the price of the tantrum is the cost of a new club. Unfortunately for Cowen his bad temper has been the end of a respectable career on the European Tour — he finished 54th in the 1980 Order of Merit — and he became a club pro, teaching high-handicap players the bare essentials of getting off the tee.

Eighteen years later he is one of the most sought-after teaching pros in the game, with a rota of pupils that includes Darren Clarke and David Howell, tipped to be the next star of British golf. But it is the astonishing rise of Westwood which has made Cowen's reputation.

more so because the young Englishman's rise to his current ranking of world No. 7 coincided exactly with his decision to seek Cowen's help in March 1996.

Westwood had gone to Cowen for half a dozen lessons when he was a junior but had turned to another teacher. He had an impressive amateur record and was the European Tour's Rookie of the Year in 1994, but his form dipped in his second year as a professional and in the next he made only £7,000 from 11 tournaments. "When he came to see me his game was short and wild," recalls Cowen.

Beatty and the beast got to work, and the rest is a golfing fairy story. Now Westwood's game is very long and very straight. "I restored his fundamentals to his game, the things he was good at when he was young: he was an aggressive player who could always

score a lot of birdies. He wasn't scoring enough birdies and when that happens you are scared to drop shots because you never know if you can make them back. I gave him confidence."

Fortunately Westwood did not need any lessons from Cowen on how to keep his temper. "Unlike me he has never been one for breaking clubs or throwing them at the bag. I couldn't stop myself even in practice rounds, and the one guarantee I can give you is that, no matter how good a swing you have, a bad temperament will ruin that swing," says Cowen ruefully.

"My problem was that I thought if I practised a lot I would never hit a bad shot when it came to the tournament. Lee understands that he is never going to hit a perfect shot every time."

So what is Cowen's secret formula for world-class golf? "Not talking" is the blunt reply as he walks

down Birkdale's 17th fairway alongside his star pupil. He is saving it all for an instruction manual.

Westwood, as ever, is sanguine. "The secret? Nothing special really, I've just worked hard on the things Peter told me to work on," he says with a grin. "And now I've reached this level, I feel it might be time to change coach again."

"Time to change?" Cowen shouts back. "Does that mean you want to change back to being a skint professional golfer again?"

David Inglis, 16, won the Junior Open at Farnham yesterday. The plus-one handicapper from Rosslyn, near Edinburgh, improved by six strokes on his opening 77 to finish one clear of Camillo Villegas from Colombia. On via Briggs, one of nine girls taking part, shot 86-90. Tom Watson's 15-year-old son Michael scored 96-77 and Greg Norman's 12-year-old Gregory scored 108-103.